Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred
Vol. 31, Issue 10
NOVEMBER 2023

Top Man

Maryland-bred leads way at Timonium yearling sale

Country Life Farm 2024 Broodmare Partnerships Now Forming

WE PROMISE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY BUDGET

For $72,000 in 2020, 10 Country Life partners purchased California stakes winner STARR OF QUALITY. We sold the foal she was carrying for $90,000 at Saratoga in 2022. Named Fulmineo, he ran second in the G2 Pligrim Stakes in October. This year we sold the mare's Gun Runner yearling filly for $775,000 at Saratoga.

For $82,000 in 2021, 10 Country Life partners bought the Malibu Moon mare MAKE AMENDS. We sold the Maclean's Music she was carrying for $140,000 as a weanling (subsequently sold for $500,000 as a yearling). Her 2023 Yaupon weanling sells at Fasig-Tipton's 2023 The November Sale.

Now in foal to Mandaloun, she is booked to Gun Runner's son Taiba for 2024.

For $20,000, 10 Country Life partners bought 2020 Maryland Million Lassie Stakes winner MISS NONDESCRIPT, shown here edging out future 8-time stakes winner Street Lute ($671,530). By Country Life stallion Mosler, the mare produced her first foal by Country Life-sire Divining Rod in 2023 and was bred back to Take Charge Indy for 2024.

COUNTRY LIFE & MERRYLAND

From Beginning to Winning

Inquire today about our upcoming 5- and 10-partner broodmare syndicate opportunities. We're headed to the Kentucky sales this month.

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Midlantic December Mixed & Horses of Racing Age

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Horses of Racing Age Supplement Entry Deadline • **November 9, 2023**

Fasig-Tipton
125 Years

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Regional yearling market remodels itself
Three Maryland-breds show the way as overall numbers trend down at a smaller Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale in Timonium. By Joe Clancy. Page 26

Maryland's Atlanta Hall Farm adds stallion Cupid
Known for its rich history as a foxhunting/training base for the Voss family for nearly 100 years, Atlanta Hall Farm welcomes proven Kentucky stallion Cupid. By Sean Clancy. Page 34

Trackside: Monmouth meet posts solid numbers
A shorter meet and a stronger New Jersey-bred program help fuel solid 2023 season at Monmouth Park. By John Piassek. Page 38

Trackside: Stars shine on big day at Parx
In spite of wet weather, Parx Racing put on a show in September including an upset by Pennsylvania-bred Nimitz Class in the Parx Dirt Mile; Saudi Crown and Ceiling Crusher star in Grade 1 stakes. By Paul Halloran. Page 42

Trackside: Intrepid Daydream rolls at Delaware
Maryland-bred filly Intrepid Daydream is on a streak that includes a score at Delaware Park on her way to a Maryland Million victory for Larry Fowler and Gary Capuano. By John Piassek. Page 48

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On our cover: The sales-topper, bred in Maryland by Bowman and Higgins Stable, awaits the final bid of $205,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic. *Photo by Z / Fasig-Tipton*

GRADE 1
SIRE
GRADE 1 WINNER
CARSON'S RUN
GRADE 2 WINNER
DESERT DAWN
MULTIPLE GRADE 2
PLACING
STERLING SILVER
CUPID
GRADE 1 CHAMPION
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MARYLAND-BRED RACE FUND

MARYLAND-BRED/MARYLAND-SIRED STAKES SCHEDULE

Through December 2023

November 24

$75,000 HOWARD & SONDRA BENDER MEMORIAL
3YO & Up, 7 furlongs

$75,000 POLITELY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs

December 2

$100,000 MD JUVENILE 2YO, 7 furlongs

$100,000 MD JUVENILE FILLY CHAMPIONSHIP
2YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

Find it on MarylandThoroughbred.com

Maryland-Breds

Weekly Entries & Results
Alpha–by Horse, by Breeder, by Stallion

Maryland Sires

CURRENT ACTIVE SIRES
Today's Entries • Yesterday's Results
Runners by Year Listings

On our home page, the top pull-down menu for Stallions, you an find Progeny entries/results. Listed are all of the day's entries for Maryland-sired runners, the previous day's results, and a Statistics button that allows you to sort by stallion name to view results by year (2023-2017). These are for current active stallions registered in the Maryland Fund program. We have also added a feature under the MD Breds tab that lists a week's worth of entries/results of Maryland-bred runners.

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 31, Issue 10

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Association Inc.

AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATIONS
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE MEDIA

Bill Reightler Bloodstock

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed Sale
Selling December 5 • Timonium, Barn I-J

Weanlings & Yearlings by:

Accelerate, By My Standards, Candygram, Divining Rod, Friesan Fire, Golden Years, Great Notion, Higher Power, Hoppertunity, Improbable, Independence Hall, Irish War Cry, Jimmy Creed, Long River, Rock Your World, Super Ninety Nine, Vekoma

Broodmares & Broodmare Prospects by:

Broken Vow, Congrats, Divining Road, Domestic Dispute, First Defence, Golden Lad, Luftikus, Malibu Moon, Medaglia D'oro, Posse, Redeemed, Run Away and Hide, Street Sense, Super Saver,

IN FOAL TO: Bourbon Courage, Divining Rod, Engage, Golden Lad, Hoppertunity, Uncle Lino, Vekoma, Weigelia, Yes It's True

Horses of Racing Age

Ignited 2017 G., Into Mischief–Sweet Factory. Allowance winner of $107,504.
Deacon Dougie 2020 G., Weigelia–Red Bank Robin. Allowance winner of 3 races in 5 starts.
Petition Prayer 2019 F., Divining Rod–Written Request. Stakes-placed winner of $102,300.
Nuwanda 2020 F., Carpe Diem–Lady Astola. Winner.

AND MORE. . .

Contact Bill Reightler • 443-935-7583 • Billr3@verizon.net • BillReightlerBloodstock.com

Post Time

STORM CHASER. On a rainy day at Laurel Park, Wicked Prankster (right) navigates the final turn and fights off a host of challengers to win his second consecutive Maryland Million Turf for owner/trainer Sam Davis. See December's edition for full coverage. *Scott Serio / Eclipse Sportswire*

GOLDMARK FARM

Post Time

THE EYES HAVE IT. Nobody at the Maryland Million had more fun than the pony racers.

Scott Serio / Eclipse Sportswire

Say It Again

"Is anybody looking?"
Fasig-Tipton auctioneer Tom Biederman, coaxing along some bidders

"I'm working to support my horse addiction."
LC Racing's Glenn Bennett, on why he wasn't at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's yearling sale (where trainer Butch Reid bought four for the Pennsylvanian)

"I would have scratched Fore Harp if I knew earlier and cost myself 20 grand."
Reid, after his horse (who actually earned $18,400) finished second in the Alphabet Soup Handicap at Parx Sept. 23 which was taken off the turf late

"Not one of, the highlight of my career. The horse looks great, trained great coming into the race. We were going to run on a fast track, slop, it didn't matter. He never misses a beat."
Trainer Bruce Kravets, a winner of 3,776 races (through Oct. 8), on if multiple stakes winner Nimitz Class was a career highlight

Hats for Sale

This started a few years ago as a way to pass time between big numbers at a Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale, but it may now be a tradition. Attendees of the yearling sale's second session Oct. 3 sported headwear representing the following (among others): MATCH Series, Haskell Stakes, Fasig-Tipton, Goffs, Keeneland, Green Bay Packers, Grassroots Training and Sales, Baltimore Orioles, Simoff Horse Transportation, New York Yankees, Dale Capuano Racing, Legion Bloodstock, Phillies, Turning Point Bloodstock, Hallway Feed, Junior Flyers (it's a hockey team), Live Oak Plantation, Straight Line Equine Sales, Adidas, Rood and Riddle veterinary clinic, Gold Square Farm, Country Life Farm, Three Diamonds Farm and No Guts No Glory Farm.

Name of the Month

H Two O: The yearling, who sold for $22,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Oct. 3, is by Divining Rod and bred in Maryland by John and Ruth Bashore. The first known use of a divining rod, which supposedly indicates the presence of water, occurred in 1751.

Go Figure

427 Pounds the largest of two pumpkins decorating the Northview Stallion Station consignment at Timonium in October weighed; the smaller one weighed 381. Both were grown by Northview's David Wade, who can talk about pumpkin pedigrees as easily as he can Thoroughbred pedigrees (really, just ask him).

5 Maryland-bred yearlings in the top 10 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale – all $100,000 or more. The group included the sales-topping Nyquist-How My Heart Works colt at $205,000, a $175,000 Street Sense colt in the second spot and a $170,000 Vekoma filly in the third position. Mid-Atlantic-breds filled eight of the top 10 prices.

2 Steeplechase jockeys enjoying pit beef sandwiches at the Timonium sale in early October, which coincided with a two-week break in the racing calendar.

MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB
AT LAUREL PARK

NOVEMBER EVENTS 2023

SAT / NOV 11

NOVEMBER STAKES

3 STAKE RACES WITH $300,000 IN PURSES

THU / NOV 23

THANKSGIVING DAY RACING

LIVE RACING AT LAUREL PARK

FRI & SAT / NOV 24 & 25

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND STAKES

5 STAKES RACES WITH $450,000 IN PURSES

LEARN MORE AT LAURELPARK.COM

Milestones

Won: The 1,500th race of his career, jockey Jevian Toledo, aboard Low Society at Pimlico Race Course Sept. 24. Trained by Brittany Russell, the 2-year-old filly won the day's third

race in her career debut. A native of Puerto Rico, Toledo graduated from the Escuela Vocacional Hipica jockey school and won 33 races there before moving his tack to North America. He earned his first domestic win (at Pimlico) in 2013 and his 1,000th at Laurel Park in 2020. Toledo has topped 100 wins in a season nine times including a career-best 188 in 2022.

Passed: The $500,000 milestone for funds raised for Thoroughbred aftercare by The Real Rider Cup charity show-jumping competition, after events this year in Kentucky and Maryland. The Maryland event, at Fair Hill Sept. 15, hosted 19 horse/rider combinations. Connections represented included Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Country Life Farm, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, WinStar Farm, Sienna Farm, Klaravich Stables, Maryland Jockey Club, Graham Motion, Tom Morley, Chad Brown, an entire team from equine veterinary clinic Sports Medicine Associates of Chester County, and others. The horses included black-type runners Flash McCaul, Ninety One Assault, Call Provision, Nakamura, and Grade 1 steeplechase winner Sermon of Love. Olympic show-jumping silver medalist and Kentucky Derby-winning trainer Michael Matz led a course walk for competitors and WBAL's Scott Wykoff served as emcee. Riders on off-track Thoroughbreds and wearing the silks of their employers, colleagues and clients contested a winding course of fences with the fastest clear rounds taking top honors. Jaidyn Shore, riding multiple stakes-placed Grandiflora and wearing the silks of trainer Ann Merryman, put in a quick and tidy round to clinch the individual win. The SMACC squad of Ashley Taylor, Sandi Norris, Kamryn Stockar, Gabrielle Nguyen and Allison Haspel won the team competition over Team Racing Kids (Shore, Paige and James Wyatt and Will Slater). Team SMACC's Norris personally raised $6,000. This year, 47 riders raised more than $125,000. When combined with corporate sponsorships and general contributions, the 2023 event raised more than $140,000, to bring the historical total to $550,000 since the inaugural competition in 2017. "We're incredibly proud of the meaningful impact we've made for our beneficiaries since 2017," said Anita Motion, who founded The Real Rider Cup. "Beyond that, we're also proud to highlight our industry's commitment to aftercare and we look forward to growing the reach of the event in the future." For more, see therealridercup.com.

Projected: By The Jockey Club, a North American foal crop of 18,000 registered Thoroughbreds in 2024. The total represents a decrease of 500 foals from the 2023 estimate of 18,500. The foal crop projection is computed by using reports of mares bred received to date for the 2023 breeding season. RMBs are to be filed by Aug. 1 of each breeding season. Thoroughbred foal crops have decreased steadily from 44,143 in 1990 and have been basically halved since 37,499 in 2007. Stallion owners who have not returned RMBs for the 2023 breeding season are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Interactive registration, which enables registered users to perform registration-related activities over the internet, is available at registry.jockeyclub.com. Additional

A SPELLBINDING STALLION ON THE JERSEY SHORE

SEA WIZARD

The runaway **No. 1** stallion in New Jersey

Sire of **GREAT NAVIGATOR**, a dominating **10-length winner** of the **Charles Hesse III H.** at Monmouth Park, third in the **Vosburgh S. (G2)** behind **CODY'S WISH**, and second in the **Sanford S. (G3)** at Saratoga at two.

No. 1 sire of 2YOs in New Jersey by **winners (5)**, **black-type horses (2)**, and **percentage of black-type horses to runners (25%)**.

His **five 2YO (MSW) winners** include stakes-placed **SEA STREAK** and **SHIP TO SHORE**.

A SON OF
PERENNIAL LEADING SIRE
UNCLE MO
OUT OF THE SW AND GSP
TALE OF THE CAT MARE
SEA ROAD

GREAT NAVIGATOR

PEGASUS
STUD

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SEA WIZARD
UNCLE MO-SEA ROAD, BY TALE OF THE CAT
2024 Fee: **$5,000 S&N**

Milestones

Unsung Hero Award winner Betty McCue rides her all-time favorite horse Oregon Ridge.

information can be found at jockeyclub.com/factbook.asp.

Selected: As the 2023 winner of the Joe Kelly Unsung Hero Award, longtime Maryland horsewoman Betty McCue. Presented by the Board of Directors of Maryland Million Ltd., this award honors the memory of Kelly and celebrates important characteristics that are valuable, but sometimes go overlooked. Kelly was the first and only publicist for the Maryland Million, serving in that role from the event's inception in 1985 until his death in 2012. McCue runs EHM Stables in White Hall offering lessons, boarding, lay-ups, sales and leases. In addition, McCue maintains a large stable of ponies and is an avid participant in the U.S. Pony Racing meets in the Mid-Atlantic. Pony racing and McCue's program enable young people to gain race-riding experience. Notable riders who started out riding McCue's ponies include flat jockeys Charlie Marquez and Maddie Rowland and Maryland Hunt Cup winner Teddy Davies among others who participate in flat racing, steeplechase racing, point-to-points and foxhunting throughout the region. McCue, wife of Maryland Jockey Club track photographer Jim McCue, was honored at this year's Jim McKay Maryland Million Oct. 14.

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

What we know (and don't) about Maryland racing's future: With the work of the Racetrack Operating Authority in full swing, Frank Vespe provided a primer on Maryland racing's future.

Fischer – "Flawed" HISA must be replaced: Guest author Rich Fischer, of the North American Association of Racetrack Veterinarians, says The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) is fatally flawed and must be replaced.

Catching Up With… Jessica Paquette: Vespe interviewed Parx Racing track announcer Jessica Paquette on the eve of her becoming the first woman to call a U.S. Grade 1 race.

Kristy Petty readies for a "different" WVBC: Trainer Kristy Petty's hands were full on West Virginia Breeders Classics night, her first without longtime partner John Casey, writes Ted Black.

For trainer Phil Capuano, Maryland Million legacies and looking ahead: Trainer Phil Capuano was set to send out four Maryland Million runners, including one who was his uncle Dale's final of 15 Million winners, Vespe reports.

WVBC – Cyndy McKee "staying busy," and then some: Cyndy McKee, widow of owner-breeder-trainer John McKee, was preparing for a busy West Virginia Breeders Classics night with two strong favorites, reported Black.

Catching Up With… Trevor McCarthy: Delaware kid Trevor McCarthy returned to his home state to ride the Cape Henlopen in September. The Racing Biz caught up with the New York-based rider for a wide-ranging conversation.

A PEDIGREE THAT'S
OUT OF THIS WORLD

SW AND GSP
SON OF WAR FRONT

A striking
$500,000 Keeneland September yearling
and a full brother to G1-winning
2YO **FOG OF WAR** and to GSP and
SW **NAVAL INTELLIGENCE** out of the
GSW and G1-placed **SAY** (IRE),
by **GALILEO** (IRE).

From the immediate family of three-time
G1 winner **RISKAVERSE** and Horse of the Year
HAVRE DE GRACE.

Won the **John Battaglia Memorial S.,** winning by
almost seven lengths, and finished a game second in
the **$250,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks S. (G3).**

MSW winner by **12 ¾ lengths as a 2YO.**

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INVADER

2024 Fee: $2,500 S&N
War Front-Say (IRE) by Galileo (IRE)

Northern Dancer to join Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame

At 4 o'clock in the morning Dec. 3, 1968, racing journalists Snowden Carter and Peter Winants were among the 10 people who greeted new stallion Northern Dancer upon his arrival – three hours early – in Maryland.

Maybe they knew the importance of the occasion.

Then a young stallion whose first crop was at the racetrack, the 1964 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner was relocated by Windfields Farm from his native Canada to Chesapeake City to raise his profile and attract mares. The move paid off and the horse re-wrote racing history. In the 22 years he stood at Windfields' Maryland division, his stud fee rose from $15,000 to $1 million (no guarantee) and he became arguably the greatest Thoroughbred stallion of all-time. His first few crops included Canadian champions Viceregal, Fanfreluche, Dance Act, One for All and Lauries Dancer plus English champion Nijinsky II.

Somehow, Northern Dancer's impact only grew.

Sons and daughters Lyphard, The Minstrel, Sadler's Wells, Storm Bird, Nureyev, Danzig, Northernette, White Star Line, Dance Number, Maryland-breds Shareef Dancer, El Gran Senor and Secreto and dozens of others made impacts on racetracks, breeding sheds and sales rings. Pensioned in 1987, Northern Dancer died at Windfields Maryland in November 1990. Shipped in a specially built oak coffin, his body was buried at Windfields in Canada and his gravesite is protected under the Ontario Heritage Act.

PETER WINANTS COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Northern Dancer arrived at Windfields Maryland from Canada in early December 1968 with his groom Bill MacFarlane.

Along the way, he was inducted into the racing Halls of Fame in Canada and the United States and the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. On Nov. 9, the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame joins to the list. The organization's 62nd induction banquet, at Martin's West Baltimore, starts at 6:30 p.m. and will include basketball star Adrian Dantley, gymnastics legend Dominique Dawes, football player Jermaine Lewis and tennis professional Harold Solomon. In addition, broadcaster Scott Garceau will receive the John F. Steadman Lifetime Achievement Award and University of Maryland women's basketball coach Chris Weller will receive the Coaches Legacy Award. The event is open to the public and tickets are available at mdsahof.com.

Northern Dancer joins Native Dancer as the only horses in the

VINDICTIVE

GSP son of Champion UNCLE MO

MO REASONS:

Defeated multiple G1 winner and Champion **Cody's Wish** in winning a MdSpWt at Saratoga and second by a neck to multiple GSW **First Captain** in the **Pimlico Special (G3).**

By Champion 2YO **UNCLE MO** ($150,000 stud fee), out of **EXOTIC BLOOM**, who has produced three-time G1 winner, Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) winner and Champion **STOPCHARGINGMARIA** ($3,014,000), who sold for **$4.4 million.**

Trained by Hall of Famer Todd Pletcher, who described Vindictive as a typical Uncle Mo with great size, mental competitiveness, and definite Grade 1-winning ability whose career was cut short. Ran a 98 Beyer in winning his final start at Belmont Park in May.

RAN A

101 BEYER

IN THE **DISCOVERY S.** AT AQUEDUCT.

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VINDICTIVE

2024 Fee: **$3,500 S&N**

Uncle Mo-Exotic Bloom, by Montbrook

Maryland hall. Others with racing connections include steeplechase jockeys Joe Aitcheson, Paddy Smithwick and Charlie Fenwick, flat jockeys Lavelle "Buddy" Ensor, Phil Grove and Sam Boulmetis, and Preakness-winning trainer J. William Boniface.

As a racehorse, Northern Dancer won seven of his nine starts as a 2-year-old in 1963 to earn championship honors in Canada. The next year, he won his first five races – the Flamingo, Florida Derby, Blue Grass, Kentucky Derby and Preakness. In the Derby, he set a record of 2:00 that stood until Secretariat came along in 1973. Northern Dancer finished third in the Belmont Stakes to miss out on the Triple Crown, but added Canada's Queen's Plate in what turned out to be his final start. Champion 3-year-old in the United States and Canada, he also won his home country's Horse of the Year crown.

Then came the stud career, which is difficult to quantify due to its success, longevity, sheer magnitude and continued impact. According to his racing Hall of Fame biography, he sired 146 stakes winners and his daughters produced an additional 214 stakes winners. His daughter Dance Number produced Not For Love, who led Maryland's sire ranks for more than a decade before he died in 2016. Northern Dancer's yearlings routinely topped sales the world over. Windfields reportedly turned down a $40 million offer for the then 21-year-old stallion.

NEENA EWING COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

For those that knew him, there are no peers.

"It's just hard to believe," said Benny Miller, who worked at Windfields in Northern Dancer's day, in 2021. "He was all heart and all determination. He didn't walk anyplace. It was like having a stick of dynamite on the end of a shank. If you went in to put a halter or twitch on him he'd shake his head and give you a little fuss, but he was fine about it. He wasn't mean or anything, just always on top of things or always ready for something."

Miller's daughter Linda Bench, grew up at Windfields and works at Northview Stallion Station on the site of the farm's stallion division.

"Northern Dancer had such a personality, he was irresistible as an individual," she said in 2021. "Without all the fame, he was like that. You had to like him. I don't know if that's part of why he achieved what he achieved – his mindset – but he really knew he was a star."

Carter and Winants didn't necessarily see all that, but they chronicled what turned out to be one of the state's top racing moments.

For the *Maryland Horse*'s December 1968 edition, Carter wrote:

Accompanying Northern Dancer on the 600-mile trip from Oshawa, Canada, was Bill MacFarlane who has been the stallion's groom ever since the horse was retired to stud in 1965.

Expected to arrive at the Windfields Farm, Maryland, Stallion Division, at 7 a.m. on December 3, the van actually pulled into the farm three hours ahead of time.

Still in bed but awake ("I couldn't sleep; I had the horse on my mind") was Bob Bennett, manager of Edward P. Taylor's Stallion Division. When summoned, Mr. Bennett arose quickly and was on hand to supervise the unloading.

"It was an easy trip," said MacFarlane. "We left Oshawa at 10:30 a.m. yesterday and reached the border about 1 o'clock. We were there about 45 minutes, then started into the States. "We had two drivers who took turns driving. I stayed in the back with my horse most of the way."

Northern Dancer was the only horse on the three-horse van.

The accommodations proved to be more than deserved.

– Joe Clancy

MHBA bookkeeper Swope earns first riding victory at Laurel Park

Erin Swope won't soon forget the third race at Laurel Park Oct. 8 – a maiden claimer for Amatuer Riders Club of America jockeys any time soon. Swope, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's bookkeeper, guided Stage Call to a come-from-behind victory, as the 3-year-old filly broke her maiden at eighth-asking for trainer Alexandra White, who co-owns her with Tom Huber. It was also Swope's first victory in an ARCA race.

In addition to her role with the MHBA, Swope gallops horses at Pimlico in the mornings. Through her backstretch connections, she began riding ARCA races in 2020, making her flat debut Jan. 25, 2020, at Parx Racing, when she guided Little Town Blues to a fourth.

"I had done steeplechasing and stuff throughout the years, so I knew Don [Yovanovich], who is in charge of ARCA, and from galloping at the track, I got the chance to be named on a couple of horses," said Swope.

Swope noted the differences between a flat race and jump race.

"A lot of times, it's just out in the middle of the field, and it's just going out and almost like hunting around," she said. "I ride a lot of timber races, so they're very long and there's a lot of solid jumps. Obviously, flat racing is totally different, it's a lot more controlled environment. In steeplechasing, a lot more can happen."

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

The ARCA hosts a few races each year at Mid-Atlantic tracks, and Swope tries to make the most of her opportunities.

"I'll gallop for different trainers in the morning at Pimlico," she said, "and those trainers will name me on a horse if they have something that's eligible."

Stage Call fit the bill. She finished third in an ARCA race Aug. 6 at Laurel under Erika Taylor and closed well in her next two starts with professional jockeys. When her condition appeared as an ARCA race at Laurel for Oct. 8, White named Swope, who had ridden the filly in the morning at Pimlico.

Stage Call went off as the 6-1 second choice in a 10-horse field. New York shipper Rosy Tomorrows was the 3-5 favorite for trainer Mike Maker.

"Alex was telling me, 'If you can get her to break sharp, that's great, but if not, just take her out the back and pick away as you go along,' " said Swope. "In all her previous races, she kind of settled toward the back of the field and made her run at the end."

Stage Call broke well from post two and took her usual spot toward the back in the early stages of the 1-mile turf race. Swope kept her in the two path most of the way, then angled her back as they rounded the far turn and kept out of trouble.

"I was getting a little bit nervous nearing the half-mile pole, because I was waiting as long as I could to see if I could get a spot on the rail. A lot of times in amateur races, everyone goes wide, so I was kind of hoping that would happen and I could get a spot on the rail.

"There was a lot of commotion and shuffling going on in front of me, and it was getting to the point in the race where if I was going to move, it was going to have to be soon," Swope continued. "Once I got around the turn and she got clear, I knew I had a ton of horse, and I was hoping I would get there in time. She really came running good at the end."

A 3-year-old filly, Stage Call and Swope ran down longtime leader Midnight in Prague and outkicked Rosy Tomorrows for the victory. In the winner's circle, Swope was jubilant.

"It was incredible. I can't believe it happened," she said after her first win under rules (she's won numerous point-to-point starts and was a regular in pony- and junior-race winner's circles). "It's so difficult to win those races, because you have to have the perfect horse, and you have get named on the horse, so much has to come together. Amateur riders get to ride in a flat race maybe two to three times a year, so to be able do it and win is really, really exciting." ■

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

September 7 – October 8

Maryland-bred

DOUBLE CROWN, b.g., 2017, Bourbon Courage—Two Columbus, by Two Punch. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman & Rebecca Davis; O-Built Wright Stables; T-Raymond E. Ginter Jr. $100,000 Polynesian S, Pimlico, Sept. 10.

INTREPID DAYDREAM, dk.b./br.f., 2019, Jess's Dream—Intrepid Tour, by Jump Start. B/O-Paul Fowler Jr.; T-Gary Capuano. $100,000 Shine Again S, Pimlico, Sept. 16.

New Jersey-bred

BOOK'EM DANNO, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Bucchero—Adorabella, by Ghostzapper. B-Gregory Kilka & Bright View Farm; O-Atlantic Six Racing; T-Derek Ryan. $100,000 Smoke Glacken S, Monmouth, Sept. 9; $150,000 Futurity S, Aqueduct, Oct. 8.

MIA'S CRUSADE, b.f., 2019, Greenpointcrusader—Mini Moneigh, by Mo Mon. B-Dianne Boyken; O-Joseph Ioia, Gayle Ioia & Chuck Spina; T-Chuck Spina. $65,000 Pinot Grigio H, Meadowlands, Oct. 6.

Pennsylvania-bred

AOIFE'S MAGIC, ch.f., 2021, Smarty Jones—Polarized, by Drosselmeyer. B-Mohns Hill Farm; O-A & J Racing Stable; T-David Dotolo. $150,000 Imply S, Parx, Sept. 23.

DOLLARIZATION, gr./ro.g., 2018, Last Gunfighter—Hygh Jacque, by Wheaton. B-William Solomon VMD; O-James Wolf; T-Timothy Kreiser. $100,000 Lite the Fuse S, Pimlico, Sept. 16.

KING KUMBALAY, dk.b./br.g., 2018, Shanghai Bobby—Lovely Stay, by Flower Alley. B-Jonathan Sheppard; O-Kingsport Farm; T-Robert Reid Jr. $100,000 Alphabet Soup H, Parx, Sept. 23.

NIMITZ CLASS, dk.b./br.c., 2019, Munnings—Five Diamonds, by Flatter. B-Arrowwood Farm Inc.; O-Tom Coulter; T-Bruce Kravets. $300,000 Parx Dirt Mile S, Parx, Sept. 23.

NOTICE OF ACTION, dk.b./br.c., 2021, Hoppertunity—Be a Gem, by Jump Start. B-Bryan Minnich; O-Andy Hawthorne; T-Bobbi Anne Hawthorne. $150,000 Prince Lucky S, Parx, Sept. 23.

ONE MORE KELLY, b.f., 2019, Not This Time—Kelly Mac, by Thunder Gulch. B/O-Warrior's Reward; T-Jamie Ness. $100,000 Plum Pretty S, Parx, Sept. 23.

SABURO'S GRACE, gr./ro.g., 2020, Saburo—Miz Graycee, by Mizzen Mast. B-Ruis Racing; O-Barbara Norlander; T-Lyle Magnuson. $12,000 B Cup 3 Year Olds S, Lethbridge-RMTC, Sept. 24.

WITTY, gr./ro.g., 2019, Great Notion—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. B/O/T-Elizabeth Merryman. $75,000 Ben's Cat S, Pimlico, Sept. 16.

West Virginia-bred

DIRECT THE CAT, gr./ro.f., 2021, Redirect—Cat Thats Grey, by Fiber Sonde. B-John McKee; O/T-Cynthia McKee. $75,000 Rachel's Turn S, Charles Town, Sept. 22.

JUBAWITHATWIST, gr./ro.g., 2021, Juba—Romantic Cork, by Denis of Cork. B-John Casey; O-KP Racing Stables; T-Kristy Petty. $75,000 Henry Mercer Memorial S (DH), Charles Town, Sept. 29.

KING KONTIE, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Karakontie (Jpn)—Jumelle Springs, by More Than Ready. B/O-Ray Pennington III; T-Ollie Figgins III. $75,000 Henry Mercer Memorial S (DH), Charles Town, Sept. 29.

Stallion News

New to the Region

Cloud Computing

Following a successful formula of standing a Grade 1-winning sire of Grade 1 winners, Dr. William Solomon has brought classic winner Cloud Computing to Pin Oak Lane Farm, New Freedom, Pa., for 2024. The 9-year-old son of Maclean's Music out of the A.P. Indy mare Quick Temper has a stud fee of $3,500 live foal, discounted to $3,000 for two mares or $2,500 for three or more mares. Winner of the 2017 Preakness Stakes-G1 over Classic Empire, and an earner of $1,125,200 from eight starts, Cloud Computing has progeny earnings of more than $3.3 million from two crops to race. His runners this year include 2-year-old filly Zajarova, a Group 1 winner in her native Chile.

Cupid

A 10-year-old son of leading sire Tapit, Cupid arrives in the region ranking as the second-leading sire by progeny earnings in 2023 (over $3-million) with three crops to race. Winner of five stakes at five different tracks, four graded, including the 2017 Grade 1 Gold Cup at Santa Anita, he earned $1,701,873 from 13 starts. He is the sire of 2023 Grade 1-winning juvenile Carson's Run and graded stake- winning multiple Grade 1 performer Desert Dawn. Standing at Atlanta Hall Farm in Monkton, Md., for $8,000, he previously stood at Ashford Stud in Kentucky. *For more about Cupid's move, see story on page 34.*

Max Player

Grade 1 winner Max Player, one of the top 3-year-olds during the Covid-year classic season, will stand his first season at Annestes Farms in Middletown, N.J., for $5,000 live foal. Winner of the 2021 Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1 and Suburban Stakes-G2, he won the Grade 3 Withers Stakes in his 3-year-old debut, and later that season was third in the Grade 1 Belmont and Travers Stakes. He retires an earner of $1,551,266 in 16 starts. "After an impressive career on the racetrack, we are excited about his prospects as a sire," said majority owner George Hall of Rumson, N.J. The 6-year-old son of champion older horse Honor Code is out of the stakes-winning Not For Love mare Fools in Love.

First stakes winner

Redirect

Cyndy McKee's first-year sire Redirect, a 7-year-old son of Speightstown out of Alternate, by Seattle Slew, is the sire of Direct the Cat, winner of the Rachel's Turn Stakes at Charles Town Sept. 22. The 2-year-old filly returned to win the West Virginia Triple Crown Nutrition Breeders Classic Stakes Oct. 14 – she won them by a combined margin of 19 lengths. Redirect has two starters from nine named foals of racing age and ranks as the Mid-Atlantic region's leading freshman sire (through Oct. 20). A half-brother to Grade 1 winner Higher Power and graded winner Alternation (sire of Grade 1-winning multimillionaire Serengeti Empress), Redirect was unraced due to a broken shoulder from a paddock injury as a yearling. He was purchased out of the 2019 Keeneland November sale as a 3-year-old by John McKee; 12 years earlier, the McKees bought unraced Fiber Sonde for $8,000 at the same sale. Direct the Cat is out of the stakes-winning Fiber Sonde mare Cat Thats Grey, making her 3x3 to broodmare Silken Cat, the dam of Speightstown and Fiber Sonde.

Moved in the Region

Fortune Ticket

To Lady Olivia at North Cliff in Rixeyville, Va. Previously stood at Anchor & Hope Farm in Port Deposit, Md.

Our Entourage

To Avonwood in Charles Town, W.Va. Previously stood at O'Sullivan Farm in Charles Town.

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Well Well

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

He's now 27 and lives happily in retirement in Frederick, Md., but Well Well became a fan favorite 10 years ago in his role as traveling buddy and stable pony to 2013 Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Orb.

While the Derby trail was a far cry from his own modest career, a revisit to the bay gelding's roots uncovers a link to Maryland racing royalty. Foaled there on April 5, 1996, he was bred by Allaire duPont. Out of her winning homebred Maribeau mare Mari Her, Well Well is by millionaire Opening Verse. The son of The Minstrel began his career in England, making his first American start at Santa Anita on New Year's Eve 1989. Within 90 days he was a graded stakes winner, taking Oaklawn's Razorback-G2 and Oaklawn Handicap-G1. Also on his resume are wins in the 1991 Fort Harrod-G3 and Early Times Turf Classic-G3. He wrapped up his career with a win in the 1991 Breeders' Cup Mile-G1 at Churchill Downs. Churchill still cards the Opening Verse Stakes each year during Kentucky Derby Week.

Opening Verse spent the first several years of his stud career at Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, Md. Sending Mari Her to him was an easy decision; duPont was a co-owner of Northview and lived at Woodstock Farm just down the road.

Well Well took four tries to break his maiden, winning at a mile on the turf at Delaware Park June 29, 1999, for owner Jerome McArdle and trainer Ronnie Houghton. His connections were patient, giving him chances at Atlantic City, Garden State, Philadelphia Park and Colonial Downs before a final try at Penn National on June 30, 2001. He finished ninth, the Delaware Park score two years prior his only win photo. He earned $18,800 with a record of 14-1-1-2.

The hunt field was a logical next step for the gelding and he joined the squad at River Hills Foxhounds in Lancaster County, Pa. With Priscilla Godsoe aboard, Well Well hunted and showed and proved to be a valuable member of the team for 12 years.

Lisa Novell Hackett, Well Well's owner since 2015, told his story.

"When they retired him, he was a staff horse at a hunt, and then he started to get spooky," she said. "Lo and behold, he was blind in his right eye. Since he wasn't able to continue as staff horse anymore, he went back to the track and he was Shug McGaughey's pony for about five years. He was Orb's babysitter and traveled with him."

Foxhunter and longtime Delaware racing official Duncan Patterson, whose daughter Jenn worked for McGaughey then, connected Well Well with his new post.

It was a sweet assignment. Orb spent the winter of 2013 at McGaughey's Florida base accompanied by Well Well. Orb kicked off his sophomore season with a score in a Gulfstream

Park allowance, then followed up with wins in the Fountain of Youth-G2 and, five weeks later, the Florida Derby-G1.

Well Well, then 17, shipped to Churchill Downs with the Kentucky Derby favorite and got a crash course in media attention. When Orb reeled off his fourth consecutive sophomore victory in the Derby, the press eagerly followed McGaughey and squad to Pimlico. Well Well was a constant in countless photos of the Preakness favorite, marching calmly – often tongue out – beside the colt as he went to the track every day.

When the time came to find life away from the racetrack, Well Well found Hackett – or vice versa.

"I had to put my hunter down and was without a horse," she said, "and Wellie came available."

Hackett's experience with Thoroughbreds, on and off the track, is extensive. The New York native began riding at age 8. While a student at State University of New York at Delhi, she began galloping horses.

"They had horses that they bred and raised and would then send them to the New York sales to generate income for the school. That's how I got into it. Then I started walking hots at Aqueduct and fell in love with racing. But back in the early 1980s, it was very much a man's world at Aqueduct and Belmont. So I ended up getting a referral from my school and went to Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky and broke babies for Greentree Stable. Then I went to Aiken with those horses and stayed with them there. When I went back to New York, I still couldn't get a job at Belmont."

She found work at a farm on Long Island, which eventually led to a position at Belmont with trainer Steve Schaeffer, and then Gary Sciacca. Next came the job Hackett calls "my best memories in racing" – riding out for Hall of Fame trainer Flint "Scotty" Schulhofer.

"If you came off the track and you said you felt a little something, he'd have the vet there that day," she said. "He was a horseman. It was a very, very good experience."

By 1991, Hackett was working a retail job in Washington, D.C., and galloping horses at Chanceland Farm for Katy Voss in the morning. A badly broken ankle closed that chapter in her life, and she then focused on retraining and rehoming off-track Thoroughbreds.

Marriage followed, and in 2002 Hackett and a friend/business partner purchased the 53-acre property in Frederick they christened Black Dog Farm.

"We are a small boarding farm. My business partner was in the Montgomery County police force. She retired, and she and her husband moved to North Carolina. It's just me now, and I have 10 horses here – four are mine and six are boarders. They are pretty much retirees or recreational riders."

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Well Well (right) helps Kentucky Derby winner Orb navigate the Pimlico Race Course backside in 2013.

> "He's such a class act, just a very special horse. And it's so neat how he had so many different jobs and for such a long time."
>
> *– Lisa Novell Hackett*

Hackett rode regularly with the Potomac Hunt. She hunted Well Well for three seasons until partial replacements of both knees relegated her to social membership. Well Well, 21 when he stopped hunting, continued to enjoy trail rides and hacking out on the farm until he was 25.

"He started to stumble," Hackett said, "so we called it a day."

Although fully retired, he's still the perfect ambassador to folks meeting a Thoroughbred for the first time. Friends and family all get a visit with Well Well when at the farm.

"He's such a class act, just a very special horse. And it's so neat how he had so many different jobs and for such a long time."

Speaking of jobs, Hackett and her husband plan to retire and relocate to South Carolina next summer. And Well Well?

"He's going with us to live out his days." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Racing people press on in face of challenges

Maybe it's happenstance, but when a Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale goes well, Boyd Browning gives regional director Paget Bennett the honor of talking to the media afterward. When things don't go so well, or are a little off for one reason or another, the Kentucky-based president and CEO takes the reins.

Browning spoke after the fall yearling sale in October, summarizing statistics that – while far from disappointing – didn't live up to the speedy pace of the last two years in Timonium. Browning talked about everything: a smaller catalog, lower gross, lower average, shifting participation levels from various segments of the industry. At some point he stopped himself and went another direction.

"I continue to be amazed that in the world we live in, the men and women that participate in this game have a pretty ferocious appetite despite sometimes our best efforts both as an industry and as a country to dissuade anybody from doing anything," he said. "You read today, we just ousted the Speaker of the House. Nobody knows what's going to happen there. Interest rates are higher than they've been. The stock market is . . ."

He let it all hang there.

About a week later, Hamas attacked Israel to ignite another international fire that – as much as it seems far, far away – will leave an impact in the United States. Stir in Russia's war in Ukraine, an 80-year-old president, four criminal indictments

against his most likely challenger in the next election, a changing climate and rising costs of pretty much everything.

Closer to home, racing seems to be stuck in another maelstrom of safety and integrity issues, a shrinking base of horses, wild ideas from left field and underwhelming solutions. Any thoughts on what's going to happen with Maryland racing? How is the sport's betting model going to compete with ever-expanding sports wagering? Where will the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority be in five years? Can national owner/breeder Mike Repole really create a meaningful new association of industry participants?

It might be easier to predict how long Jim Jordan or whomever lasts in the Speaker's chair.

In the face of that and more, you'd think more people might lose their enthusiasm for owning/breeding Thoroughbred horses, or at least continuing to invest in a pursuit that counts on long-term stability for its future.

Browning was having none of it. He pinned the success of his company's sale, where $7 million worth of yearlings changed hands, on the stick-to-it mentality of the people involved in the Thoroughbred industry.

"It defies all logic, but it also shows you the love, the passion and the desire," Browning said, "and how much people love the game and how much they're committed to it."

Somehow, he's right. Don't get me (or him) wrong, the industry needs to be ever-mindful of the business conditions it operates within. Breeders, sellers, buyers, owners, trainers and so on will adjust to those conditions and I hear plenty about adjustments. Consignors at Timonium wondered about what seemed like fewer trainers among the bidders. Buyers wondered where all the horses went. Racing might want to plan for a future with bumpier sales results, smaller catalogs, shorter racing schedules, foal crops that continue to decline and even more uncertainty when it comes to racing regulation.

But racing isn't going away anytime soon.

Credit that logic-defying commitment Browning mentioned. People breed, raise, train, sell, buy, own, train and ride because they're committed. Like any business, there will be high times and low, booms and busts – and we should probably stop causing our own problems – but the core business of Thoroughbred racing ought to survive it all.

Even if it doesn't always seem like it.

Calling An Audible

Last month, I wrote here that you should expect a feature on the use of PET scans to enhance horse safety this month. The article was basically finished at press time, but needs a little more work and will fit much better in a future edition. See you then. ■

Still Going

HIGGINS-BRED YEARLING BRINGS $205,000 AS NUMBERS SLIDE AT FASIG-TIPTON SALE

By Joe Clancy ■ *Fasig-Tipton Photos*

Longtime owner/breeder Milton Higgins III died in April, but it will be awhile before his influence on Maryland's Thoroughbred industry ceases.

Case in point, this year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale at Timonium, Md., Oct. 2-3. Bowman and Higgins Stable, the partnership of Higgins and Dr. Tom Bowman, bred the $205,000 sales-topper – a Nyquist colt out of the Not For Love mare How My Heart Works, whose second dam Formalities Aside produced the top yearling at the same sale seven years earlier.

Consigned by Becky Davis, the 2023 sales-topper had potential buyers at hello.

"He was almost a May foal, all the parts were there and he handled himself well every day," said Michelle Hemingway, who bought the dark bay colt on behalf of Thorostock and Seth Morris Thoroughbreds. "Sometimes you get a little hung up with, 'Is he as built as all the other ones?' but it's OK. He was foaled April 26. It's going to come."

Hemingway, Morris and Thorostock's Nick Sallusto put the colt on their short list and also appreciated a blossoming pedigree page that includes half-brother Monday Morning Qb (the 2020 Maryland Million Classic winner with $334,005 in the bank) and Group 3-placed full-sister Asawer. The latter sold for $200,000 as a yearling in 2021 and brought $450,000 at Timonium as a 2-year-old.

Formalities Aside has produced nine winners led by $556,593 earner Awesome Flower, the dam of Grade 1 winner Cyberknife, and that 2016 sales-topper ($450,000) First Mondays, who won twice, placed in a Grade 3 and is a sire in Maryland. One more generation brings in Dubai World Cup-G1 winner Well Armed, Grade 1 winner American Patriot and others.

The combination appealed to Thorostock and Morris, who led all buyers with $520,000 spent on six yearlings. Look for the squad in next year's 2-year-old sales.

"When we get around to the sales in the spring, he's going to be a monster," Hemingway said of the sales-topper. "He's going to go to Ocala at Thorostock and go into training and go that course. He just has a ton of quality."

Davis, who topped the sale for the fourth time in 10 years, ranked the Nyquist colt ahead of pretty much any she's sold – even if she saw potential improvement ahead.

"He could have been a bigger, stronger, more robust, imposing figure but I don't do that," she said. "I could have bulked him up and had him much more physically big, but I don't think that translates to being a good racehorse. He didn't look like a stallion, he looked like a baby because he is a baby. I truly believe he's the best horse I've sold. Whether he shows that in his athletic career remains to be seen because there are so many other factors at work, but he had the best conformation, is physically put together well and is a well-balanced animal. And we really believed in him and told people that."

She also, of course, thought about Higgins.

"I didn't stand in my normal place, I went and sat with my dad in the pavilion," Davis said. "I was trying to keep it

Onsite
Hip 160
$205,000
MIDLANTIC FALL YEARLINGS 2023
Fasig-Tipton
Onsite
Hip 160
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MIDLANTIC FALL YEARLINGS 2023
Fasig-Tipton
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MIDLANTIC FALL YEARLINGS 2023
Fasig-Tipton
160

Leading consignor Becky Davis sold the sales-topper for the fourth time in 10 years.

together, but it was a flood of emotion. I'm so used to being on the phone with Milton or calling Milton right after. I wished I could have called him."

Quality was the theme at the 2023 sale, which featured a smaller catalog compared to the previous several years. Over the two days, 368 horses went through the ring – 97 fewer than in 2022. Gross receipts dipped to $7,082,000 compared to $10,266,400 in 2022. The average price of $24,421 came close to matching the 2022 figure of $26,597.

"The results were fairly consistent and comparable to prior years," said Boyd Browning Jr., Fasig-Tipton's president and CEO. "I think we've seen some indication throughout the last 12 to 18 months of a little weakening in the regional markets and I think that was evident the last couple days. The catalog was smaller this year, due in part to the fact that the Saratoga New York-bred catalog grew by 60 or 70 horses so I think there was some transference of horses that would have normally come to this sale into that sale."

Browning called that move "a strategic error" on Fasig-Tipton's part and doesn't plan on repeating it. The crowded Saratoga catalog also required temporary stalls and created logistical challenges for that sale.

"We had accepted more horses for the sale than we had stalls for and the retention rate there is very, very, very high," he said. "Most of the breeders want to go to that sale because it increases the likelihood of the horses staying in New York . . . That won't happen again in 2024 but at the end of the day you had 60 more horses in the catalog and they had to come from somewhere."

The catalog included a dozen fewer New York-breds compared to 2022, but also felt decreases among yearlings bred in other states including Pennsylvania (100 last year, 61 this year) and Maryland (222, 181).

SALES LEADERS

Colts

$205,000. Dk.b./br.c. Nyquist—How My Heart Works, by Not For Love (Md.); Becky Davis, agt.; Thorostock and Seth Morris Thoroughbreds.

$175,000. Dk.b./br.c. Street Sense—Victory Rally, by Jump Start (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agt.; Thorostock and Seth Morris Thoroughbreds.

$155,000. Gr./ro.c. Good Magic—Tap the Magic, by Tapit (Pa.); Gracie Bloodstock, agt.; Ynot Stables.

$145,000. Dk.b./br.c. Maclean's Music—My Happy Place, by Tapit (Ky.); Scott Mallory, agt.; Scanlon Training and Sales.

$135,000. B.c. Classic Empire—Adorabella, by Ghostzapper (N.J.); Gracie Bloodstock, agt.; LC Racing.

$130,000. B.c. Maximus Mischief—Flatter's Secret, by Flatter (Pa.); Marshall Silverman, agt.; LC Racing.

$112,000. Dk.b./br.c. Street Sense—Capulus, by Tapit (Ky.); Blake-Albina Thoroughbred Services, agt. I; SJB Stable Trust.

$110,000. Ch.c. Nyquist—Peach of a Gal, by Curlin (Md.); Glenangus Farm, Becky Davis, agt.; Mens Grille Racing.

$87,000. Dk.b./br.c. Honor A. P.—Flit, by Not For Love (Md.); Dark Hollow Farm; Hillwood Stables.

$85,000. Dk.b./br.c. Tom's d'Etat—Pursuing Justice, by To Honor and Serve (N.Y.); Turning Point Bloodstock, agt.; Calumet Farm.

$80,000. Gr./ro.c. Volatile—Fully Equipped, by More Than Ready (Fla.); Gracie Bloodstock, agt.; Keep The Ball Rollin.

$72,000. Dk.b./br.c. Cross Traffic—Dana's Lucky Lady, by Lucky Lionel (Minn.); Dreamtime Stables, agt. IV; Zahler/Gorra/Robertson.

$70,000. Dk.b./br.c. Lookin At Lucky—Her Big Moment, by Awesome Again (Md.); Glenangus Farm, Becky Davis, agt.; Calumet Farm.

$70,000. Gr./ro.c. Great Notion—No Picnic, by Include (Md.); Deb Ferguson, agt.; Jagger Inc.

$70,000. B.c. Great Notion—Untiltherewasyou, by Big Brown (Md.); Thornmar, Marshall Silverman, agt.; Xtreme Racing Stables.

Fillies

$170,000. Ch.f. Vekoma—Undisputed Legend, by Domestic Dispute (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agt.; Golden Lion Racing.

$100,000. B.f. Munnings—Securely, by Uncle Mo (Va.); Audley Farm Equine, Gracie Bloodstock, agt.; Grassroots Training and Sales.

$100,000. B.f. War of Will—River Gal, by Blame (Va.); Morgan's Ford Farm; Hillwood Stables.

$100,000. Gr./ro.f. Gift Box—Silver Sides, by Bandbox (Md.); Dark Hollow Farm, agt. IV; Hillwood Stables.

$85,000. B.f. Maximus Mischief—Last April Frost, by City Zip (Ky.); Gracie Bloodstock, agt.; Grassroots Training and Sales.

$80,000. B.f. Omaha Beach—Fifteen Moons, by Malibu Moon (Md.); Country Life Farm and Partners, Bill Reightler, agt.; C F Bloodstock.

$80,000. B.f. McKinzie—Vielsalm, by Fairbanks (Md.); Becky Davis, agt.; Mouse.

$77,000. B.f. Practical Joke—Ride Me Fast, by Candy Ride (Arg) (Ky.); Straight Line Equine Sales, agt.; Michael Trombetta.

$70,000. Ch.f. Complexity—Just Like the Moon, by Malibu Moon (N.Y.); Blake-Albina Thoroughbred Services, agt. I; Chief Horse Futures.

"We understand ebbs and flows in marketplaces," Browning said. "It's an important market to us. The 2-year-old sale here has become a major, major component of our sales calendar, not just the 2-year-old calendar but our overall sales calendar. You do the best that you can. You try to recruit and use the evidence of some of the results consignors had, particularly at the end of the sale. We're big believers that if you can stand out, in whatever sale you happen to be in, wherever you are, whatever your price range is, if you can be a bigger fish in a smaller pond or a standout. People that had horses that physically and pedigree-wise stood out, were rewarded for it.

"Look at every regional marketplace, the number of foals in the foal crop continues to decline."

Those smaller foal crops, unproven regional stallions and some uncertainty within the regional racing programs also impacted the sale, Browning said, though the Mid-Atlantic yearling market will continue to adapt.

"We live in a world where it's expensive to own horses and we see the trends of slightly smaller fields and there are some concerns on a regional basis," said Browning. "What's the future of racing look like at certain racetracks? There's a little uncertainty in the state of Maryland that we all read about and are aware of. I think there was reduced participation among the Maryland trainers this year than we've seen in the past. It's understandable, I'm not calling them out. When there's uncertainty, it creates a cautious environment rather than a bullish environment."

As always, demand remained high for quality horses.

> "If you don't have a good physical and you don't vet, it's going to be tough. There's just no two ways about it. It's the nature of the business we're in right now."
>
> *– Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning*

"If you don't have a good physical and you don't vet, it's going to be tough," Browning said. "There's just no two ways about it. It's the nature of the business we're in right now."

Hemingway went to $175,000 to buy another colt with a deep Maryland pedigree for Thorostock and Morris. The Street Sense colt's first three dams won stakes in the region, topped by third dam Who Did It and Run, who won the

THE NUMBERS

TWO-YEAR FIGURES

	2023	2022
Offered	368	465
Sold	290	386
Not Sold	21.2%	17.0%
Gross	$7,082,000	$10,266,400
Average	$24,421	$26,597
Median	$12,000	$15,000

LEADING BUYERS

Thorostock & Seth Morris Thoroughbreds (6)	$520,000
Grassroots Training and Sales (11)	453,000
LC Racing (4)	357,000
Hillwood Stables (3)	287,000
Mens Grille Racing (5)	277,000
Calumet Farm (3)	195,000
SJB Stable Trust (2)	177,000
Golden Lion Racing (1)	170,000
Scanlon Training & Sales (2)	161,000
Ynot Stables (1)	155,000

LEADING SIRES

Gross Sales

Maximus Mischief (7)	$347,000
Great Notion (10)	327,000
Maclean's Music (5)	324,000
Nyquist (2)	315,000
Street Sense (2)	287,000
Vekoma (4)	285,000
Gift Box (6)	245,000
Omaha Beach (3)	205,000
Good Magic (2)	202,000
Holy Boss (12)	166,500

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Vekoma (4)	$71,250
Omaha Beach (3)	68,333
Maclean's Music (5)	64,800
Maximus Mischief (7)	49,571
Maximum Security (3)	44,667
Gift Box (6)	40,833
Great Notion (10)	32,700
Complexity (4)	31,000
Tiz the Law (4)	29,000
Instagrand (3)	24,000

LEADING CONSIGNORS

Gross Sales

Becky Davis (25)	$1,005,000
Gracie Bloodstock (26)	902,000
Marshall Silverman (40)	871,000
Northview Stallion Station (28)	708,000
Turning Point Bloodstock (14)	358,500
Vinery Sales (27)	343,500
Bill Reightler (28)	322,000
Scott Mallory (7)	310,000
Deb Ferguson (8)	306,000
Blake-Albina Thoroughbred Services (6)	269,000

Average (3 or more sold)

Morgan's Ford Farm (4)	$49,750
Blake-Albina Thoroughbred Services (6)	44,833
Scott Mallory (7)	44,286
Dark Hollow Farm (5)	43,200
Becky Davis (25)	40,200
Deb Ferguson (8)	38,250
Gracie Bloodstock (26)	34,692
Turning Point Bloodstock (14)	25,607
Northview Stallion Station (28)	25,286
Crane Thoroughbred Services (6)	24,000

Maryland-bred yearlings consigned by Northview Stallion Station occupied the second and third spots on the final leaderboard at Timonium. Top: A Street Sense colt brought $175,000. Bottom: A Vekoma filly fetched $170,000.

"The prices coming down could make people a little more realistic with their expectations, the problem is all the other expenses have skyrocketed."

– Consignor Becky Davis

Jersey Derby-G2 and eight other races and produced nine winners. Her daughter Who's Cozy placed in a Grade 3 and produced seven winners. Bred by Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds, the Street Sense colt out of the Jump Start mare Victory Rally went to Saratoga with the Northview Stallion Station consignment but did not meet his reserve.

"The conformation was there, but it was more of a regional pedigree on the female side, and we knew from last year that we can do better here with that," said Northview's David Wade. "We're learning as we go along what it is we need to take to Saratoga. The buyers who spend the money at Saratoga aren't looking for regional families even though there's a lot of black type. They're looking for black type on a national or international level. We thought we would do well bringing the horse back here and we did."

In both cases, the Maryland-bred designation probably attracted bids but didn't necessarily sway Hemingway's decision to buy.

"It's a perk," she said. "When the sister brought 450, there weren't as many [pedigree] updates. Monday Morning Qb hadn't done as much as he's done now and obviously the sister went to Dubai so it didn't matter to those buyers. It's an addition, though. You know you'll always have that with the horse."

Northview sold the third-highest horse at the sale, too, as a Vekoma filly from the Domestic Dispute mare Undisputed

Legend brought $170,000. Bred in Maryland by Wade, the filly is a half-sister to Whereshetoldmetogo, a multiple stakes winner in the region and earner of $967,795. Undisputed Legend has produced six other winners while her dam Lunar's Legend produced eight winners.

"She brought more than I thought she would," said Wade. "I had protected her to $100,000 and I'd have been happy if I brought her home and kept her to race myself but you can't get a number like that – or at least I can't – and keep the horse to race yourself."

Wade will get plenty of chances to watch the filly as Maryland trainer Brittany Russell made the winning bid on behalf of Mike Golden's Golden Lion Racing.

Like Browning, Wade saw the effects of the smaller catalog and a changing marketplace. He saw fewer buyers on the grounds, went through fewer yearling cards and noticed more online bidding.

"The smaller sale impacts us somewhat," he said. "There were fewer buyers on the grounds than we've seen in the past, in my opinion . . . You had a better idea of what was going to happen with your horses when you knew who was looking at them, how many people were looking at them and who they were looking for. It's a little more difficult to gauge that now which may be tougher for the people you are consigning for to understand."

But adapting to new conditions is part of running a yearling consignment, or any business.

"This sale has changed through the years," Wade said. "There used to be a time when this was a great sale for Maryland trainers to buy from. You don't see as many Maryland trainers here. It used to be a great sale for the regional stallions and that's getting tougher. It used to be a very good pinhookers' sale. That's changed a little bit. We're not just in market correction, we're not just in a correction with regard to the population of horses . . . who our buyers are and what sales they're going to is correcting too."

Davis topped the sale and still left with concerns – a smaller catalog, a lack of participation by Maryland trainers, overzealous veterinary opinions and inspections, lower overall prices and an uncertain racing future in her home state chief among them.

"The prices coming down could make people a little more realistic with their expectations, the problem is all the other expenses have skyrocketed," she said. "Not having many Maryland trainers there is a sign of the times. The catalog is smaller, but look what's happening to the whole foal crop. There's a lot of apprehension in the state and the industry is smaller."

Pennsylvania-based consignor Chris Gracie sold a Pennsylvania-bred Good Magic colt for $155,000.

• • •

Fellow 2-year-old pinhooker Grassroots Training and Sales joined Thorostock/Morris at the top of the buyer board, spending $453,000 on 11 yearlings. A $100,000 Munnings filly bred in Virginia by Audley Farm Equine led the way. Consigned by Gracie Bloodstock, the bay is a half-sister to stakes winner Hold Tight and from the family of Grade 2 winner Millionreasonswhy. The filly was one of three six-figure sales for Gracie, which put two yearlings in the top five and sold 26 for $902,000 (second only to Davis at $1,005,000).

"There are always people here who have money to spend, you've just got to bring them something they can bid on," said Chris Gracie. "We sold most of the horses we brought here, did better than we thought we might do on a couple of them. We're happy. This isn't the only place people come to buy horses and they are very aware of what the market's doing, sires, averages, physicals. You've got to be on top of it."

Gracie sold a Good Magic colt out of the Tapit mare Tap the Magic for $155,000. Bred in Pennsylvania by the Warrior's Reward partnership and the Good Magic Syndicate, the gray went to YNot Stable.

"Donnie Brown and Tom McClay [of Warrior's Reward] are good clients and they send me a lot of horses so it's nice to do well for them," said Gracie. "We knew he was a good horse, we just tried to get him here in good shape."

A New Jersey-bred Classic Empire colt bred by Greg Kilka and Bright View Farm sold for $135,000 as Hip 3. The colt was familiar to new owner LC Racing, which campaigns stakes-winning half-sister Girl Trouble in partnership with Swilcan Stable. Another half-sibling, 2-year-old gelding Book'em Danno won his debut for Atlantic Six Racing and trainer Derek Ryan before the catalog printed, won a stakes three weeks before the sale and added another stakes six days after.

"We don't want to get caught up just in one family, but that looks like a quality mare," said trainer Butch Reid, who made the purchase for LC owner Glenn Bennett. "Two foals to race, both stakes winners, and he's a very handy-looking horse, not too big and we really liked him."

Carrying Girl Trouble, Adorabella cost Kilka $14,000 at Keeneland January in 2020.

"They've done real well with that mare," said Gracie. "She gets nice foals and this one came to me after he was weaned so we've had him for about a year. He got a big update before the sale, which helped, and when Butch buys your horse, you know it's going to get a good shot."

Reid went to $130,000 to get another yearling with a connection to the stable – a colt by Maximus Mischief. Racing for LC and Cash is King, Maximus Mischief won three of four including the Remsen Stakes-G2 before retiring to stud and leading all first-crop sires nationally (through Oct. 10) with $1.3 million in earnings.

"We looked at every Max in the sale and he was our No. 1," said Reid. "He looks just like his father, maybe not as big because his father was massive, but he's got good range and he looks like he's got a lot of scope to him."

The colt, bred in Pennsylvania by Dr. and Mrs. Bill Riddle, paced consignor Marshall Silverman's 40 yearlings sold for $871,000 (third on the list by gross) and topped the seven yearlings by Maximus Mischief in the sale.

Virginia's Morgan's Ford Farm led consignors by average ($49,750) on four yearlings sold, all homebreds. A War of Will filly out of River Gal led the way at $100,000 on a bid by Cary Frommer for Hillwood Stable. The bay filly is the first foal out of stakes winner River Gal.

Morgan's Ford added a Tiz the Law filly out of Maryland-bred star Crabcakes to the catalog's addendum after she failed to meet her reserve at Keeneland September and was rewarded with a $67,000 sale to Men's Grille Racing. Morgan's Ford owners Wayne and Susie Chatfield-Taylor inherited Crabcakes upon owner/breeder Binnie Houghton's death in

Ten-year figures for fall yearling sale

Year	Gross	Average	Sold	Buy-back %	Sales topper
2023	$7,082,000	$24,421	290	21.2	$205,000. dk.b./br.c., Nyquist—How My Heart Works, by Not For Love; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Thorostock and Seth Morris Thoroughbreds.
2022	$10,266,400	$26,597	386	17.0	$320,000. dk.b./br.f., Uncle Mo—Andina (Ire), by Singspiel (Ire); consigned by Determined Stud, Scott Mallory, agent; purchased by Legion Bloodstock, agent.
2021	$11,269,400	$29,578	381	16.4	$235,000. ch.c., Mendelssohn—Grace Is Gone, by Malibu Moon; consigned by Northview Stallion Station (David Wade); purchased by Scanlon Training and Sales.
2020	$9,161,200	$24,172	379	21.7	$270,000. Torpedo Run, ch.c., Gun Runner—Stormy Tak, by Stormy Atlantic; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Lambe Bloodstock.
2019	$7,275,900	$24,253	300	21.2	$190,000. My Oath, b.c., Honor Code—Mrs. Vanderbilt, by Citidancer; consigned by Bill Reightler, agent; purchased by Seagull Capital, Tim Hills, agent.
2018	$7,318,700	$21,653	332	21.8	$210,000. Kiss the Girl, b.f., Into Mischief—Spin the Bottle, by Hard Spun; consigned by CandyLand, agent II; purchased by Three Diamonds Farm.
2017	$7,855,100	$25,177	312	29.1	$300,000. World Affairs, dk.b./br.c., Cairo Prince— Current Event, by Curlin; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Eisaman Equine.
2016	$6,436,600	$24,017	268	17.0	$450,000. First Mondays, ch.c., Curlin—Formalities Aside, by Awesome Again; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Charles Zacney.
2015	$5,228,800	$19,083	274	25.3	$200,000. Shimmering Aspen, gr./ro.f., Malibu Moon— Aspenglow, by Lion Hearted; consigned by CandyLand, agent III; purchased by Ellen Charles.
2014	$6,023,900	$21,905	275	27.6	$260,000. Charmed Victory, b.c., Flatter—American Victory, by Victory Gallop; consigned by Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agent; purchased by Hillwood Stable.

In 2004, a colt by Silver Deputy sold at this sale for $500,000 to set a record for the most expensive horse sold at public auction in Maryland and remains the most expensive yearling sold. The record price for a horse of any age sold at public auction in Maryland is $3,550,000 for Hejazi, a dark bay colt by Bernardini consigned by Chester and Mary Broman, Sequel Bloodstock, agent, who sold at the 2022 May 2-year-olds in training sale.

2017, helped finish off a nine-win, $419,532 racing career and added her to the broodmare band.

"She grew another hand on the farm, just blossomed," said Wayne Chatfield-Taylor of Crabcakes as a broodmare. "What's really nice is that we're propagating this family again, just in a different place – Virginia instead of Maryland. It's been a wonderful thing to be part of. We felt lost in the crowd [at Keeneland]. She's a local legend here and they called her a celebrity when the filly went in the ring, which was nice."

Sales Notes

Maryland-breds occupied the top three spots in the results, and half of the top 10 . . . Dreamtime Stables sold a Minnesota-bred colt by Cross Traffic for $72,000 . . . Maryland-based Men's Grille bought five yearlings for $277,000, topped by a $110,000 Nyquist colt purchased from breeder Glenangus Farm via Davis. ■

STATISTICS BY SEX

	Colts	*Fillies*	*Geldings*
Sold	153	136	1
Gross	$4,169,500	$2,901,500	$11,000
Average	$27,252	$21,335	$11,000
Median	$14,000	$10,000	$11,000

TWO-YEAR BID DISTRIBUTION FIGURES

		2023		2022	
	bid	*no. sold*	*total amount*	*no. sold*	*total amount*
≥	$100,000	12	$1,637,000	23	$3,215,000
≥	75,000	7	574,000	12	973,000
≥	50,000	26	1,540,000	24	1,364,000
≥	25,000	46	1,548,000	65	2,125,000
≥	10,000	80	1,229,000	120	1,896,000
≥	5,000	65	413,000	80	524,000
others		54	141,000	62	169,400

TOP THREE yearlings at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October Sale were all MARYLAND-BREDS

A $205,000 sales-topping colt by Nyquist
A $175,000 colt by Street Sense
A $170,000 filly by Vekoma

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Taking Aim

PROMINENT KENTUCKY STALLION CUPID JOINS ATLANTA HALL IN MARYLAND

By Sean Clancy ■ *Photographs by Barrie Reightler*

Garrett Murray doesn't usually answer his phone during training hours. He and his wife Elizabeth were standing on the edge of the work strip at Atlanta Hall Farm waiting for a set of jumpers to breeze when Murray's phone rang. A Kentucky bloodstock agent was on the other end.

"Cupid's been bought," he said. "You should find your way down here."

Murray got on the next plane. Joined a meeting that evening. And two weeks later, Cupid was in Maryland.

Purchased by Tony Mills' SugarMill Stables, the Grade 1 winner and prominent third-crop sire became the first stallion and the newest chapter of the storied Monkton, Md., farm.

"It's been a quick two weeks," Murray, 45, said Oct. 16. "We launched him yesterday. We did a lot of banging walls, we had the fence guy here, it sure feels right to me. It's a great buzz to have a stallion again. I feel like I'm 20 years of age."

A $900,000 yearling purchase at Keeneland September in 2014, Cupid competed for the Coolmore team of Susan Magnier, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith while trained by Bob Baffert. The gray colt won the Gold Cup at Santa Anita Stakes-G1, the West Virginia Derby-G2, Indiana Derby-G2 and Rebel Stakes-G2 before retiring with six wins from 13 starts for $1,701,873.

Cupid began his stallion career at Coolmore's Kentucky facility Ashford and has produced 110 winners and seven black-type winners. His offspring includes 2021 Canadian champion juvenile God of Love, Grade 2 stakes winner Desert Dawn, Grade 3 stakes winner Duke of Love and Carson's Run, winner of the Summer Stakes-G1 days after Mills and Murray made a deal. The son of Tapit and the Beau Genius mare Pretty 'n Smart ranked sixth on North America's second-crop sire list last year and was 11th on the third-crop list this year (through Oct. 16).

"It's always been something I wanted to do, and it was a matter of timing," Murray said. "The right horse, the right partner. The horse was on my radar but SugarMill, Tony Mills wasn't. The deal happened. We both feel like he's the right type of horse for this market. There's a lot happening with him. We have soldiers on the ground. There is action there."

And there is action at Atlanta Hall again.

Since the 1930s, the 900-acre farm has served as the platform, the canvas for the Voss family's equine legacy. Painters and ponies, horses and horsemen have graced the farm. The Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point, a rite of passage, signals the sign of spring and begins the four-weekend Maryland timber circuit. Like all the generations before him, Murray mows the grass, sets the beacons, starts the races and enjoys every minute. A gaggle of next-generation horsemen in tow, including Murray's daughter, horse-obsessed Genevieve.

Elizabeth's father, Tom Voss, began and finished his Hall of Fame career over the picturesque hills off Pocock Road. Cookie, Aruhapy, John's Call, Dreadnaught, Mickey Free, Brigade of Guards, Ironfist, Slip Away, Sam Sullivan, Florida Law sprinkle through the steeplechase and flat worlds, the building blocks of a bygone era. Florida Law and Welter Weight won the Maryland Hunt Cup. Slip Away collected a steeplechase Eclipse Award. John's Call won two Grade 1 turf races, nearly upset the Breeders' Cup Turf-G1 in 2000 and competed in Japan. Seemingly every summer, Voss runners threw down with the biggest names in racing at Saratoga Race Course. Tom Voss died in 2014 after winning five National Steeplechase Association training championships.

Elizabeth and Gary had just moved to the farm, two kids with two young kids (Genevieve and Thomas) and were thrust into the cockpit. Grade 1 jumpers continued as the stable hit double digits in wins from 2015-17. The horses got old, the owners, too. Recently, the output has slowed.

Time to be creative.

"Things have gone a little quiet the last couple of seasons, we're working hard, and I still love my jump racing and we'll always have jumpers, but we had to do something different," Murray said. "It might take us down a breeding road and that might lead to a commercial wing, selling. It feels right. It felt like the right horse for me, Tony and I gelled, we both love this horse. Thankfully, he could buy him, and we could figure out a deal to bring him to Maryland."

Bedded down in a renovated stall inside the fabled indoor track – built in the 1920s by Atlanta Hall's previous owner Tim Durant – on the edge of the long driveway, Cupid will stand for $8,000 next year. And Murray will hope he continues his long involvement in the stallion business and helps bolster the Mid-Atlantic breeding market.

Gary Murray's daughter Genevieve offers Cupid a treat at the stallion show Oct. 15.

"For me to get out there again, to get out there selling again, that's something I hadn't done for a while because that's where life took me. I hope he's that horse. I hope he fills that gap."

– Atlanta Hall Farm's Garrett Murray

"We only win if Maryland breeders win," Murray said.

Murray ventured to the United States to work for Juddmonte Farm in 2000. He found himself in the stallion barn quickly. There was Distant View, Known Fact and a yearling named Empire Maker. A three-way voyage from America to Chile to Ireland with Dushyantor further sowed the seed. After that it was a spell at Castleton Lyons with the reverse-commute superstar Malibu Moon. And then the pinnacle, a formative and foundational stint at Coolmore, which has now come full circle with the addition of Cupid.

"At the launch, a lovely couple walked in the barn. It was Jeff and Amanda. I said, 'Hey, Jeff, hey Amanda, I'm Gary, this is Cupid. Have a look at him, go to the house and have some food.' They were very nice," Murray said. "We got to talking, 'Where are you based?' 'Pennsylvania.' 'Where are you from?' I said, 'Oh, I'm Irish, I worked at Coolmore.' He said, 'You worked at Coolmore? Do you know Gary?' I said, 'Well, I am Gary.' "

Murray had sold seasons to Monashee Mountain, Mull of Kintyre, Grand Slam and all the others to owner/trainer/breeder Jeff Talley for years. They had never met.

"He couldn't believe that I was who I was and where I was, it was nice to able to reconnect with someone like that. And I have a product that he likes. I know he'll support a stallion," Murray said. "That was kind of fun. For me to get out there again, to get out there selling again, that's something I hadn't done for a while because that's where life took me. I hope he's that horse. I hope he fills that gap."

Murray set a goal of booking 100 mares to Cupid next spring. Mills will support the 10-year-old stallion with his mares. Murray and his mother-in-law, Mimi Voss, will support the new addition with their mares. There will be room for some mares to board at Atlanta Hall and room for more at neighboring farms. Hopefully the rest of the local breeders will follow suit and maybe some Kentucky mares as well.

"Listen, I'm not saying it's going to be easy, but I'd like to think we're bringing something to the market that, A, will be needed and, B, will be popular," Murray said. "We are a farm, she's a beautiful baby but she needs all the help she can get. Potentially, down the road, he could be a good solid source of income for the farm for the next decade. We'll shove it all back in there, fixing something. I'd love to look back in 10 years and say he's another Two Punch or another Allen's Prospect." ■

Stallion Roster

A stallion might be new to Maryland's storied Atlanta Hall Farm, but Garrett Murray has been around some big names during a variety of jobs with international stud farms Juddmonte, Coolmore and Castleton Lyons. A few of his favorites:

Thunder Gulch. "He is my most favorite horse in the world. Just the most chilled, the smartest horse I've ever been around as an individual. We were down in Argentina, we'd be at the asado, playing the guitar, sitting around the grill. He'd be looking out the door and we'd bring him out on the shank and he'd graze around, try to steal cupcakes off the table. He was a neat horse, very laid back, very intelligent. In the breeding shed, it was a game to him. He'd pretend he wasn't quite ready to cover a mare and then he would pounce when you weren't paying attention."

Empire Maker. "I wasn't around him as a stallion I suppose. Riding Empire Maker . . . he was gifted. He wanted to do things his own way. He didn't want to be told anything."

Hennessy. "He brought me to Argentina. He was a nightmare. We'd have one mare to breed at 7 o'clock at night. We'd be dressed up, have the aftershave on, we were going to town for a night out. He could take 30 seconds, or he could take an hour. When he smelled the aftershave, he'd take an hour. He was the most frustrating but also the most lovable. It was a process to get him to breed a mare. I had a lot of fun with him."

Malibu Moon. "He was just a beast. It was a challenge at the beginning to say the least. It was weeks, months, he was so big and powerful. He was tricky in his paddock and to catch him. We figured him out. I had a lot of fun with him. He taught me so much."

Giant's Causeway. "I wasn't there for [American] Pharoah or Justify but if I had to pinpoint one it would be Giant's Causeway. I didn't handle him, I was selling nominations. He wasn't difficult, there was no dirt in him. Quite straightforward, just hardy."

"There were so many down through the years but they would be the top five. Thunder was just a piece of work. What a horse. An elite sire. He was my favorite. And now I suppose Cupid, but I haven't had him that long. He's fun. I feel great when I walk beside him. He's not straightforward, he likes to do things his way in the paddock when you're catching him. You have to go in there and he comes at you like he's going for you, but then he dances around you, you just kind of ignore him until he's ready. Just wants to do it on his terms. That's stallions. That's horses."

— Trackside: Monmouth Park —

Shorter Meet, Better Numbers

HANDLE BUMP, STRONGER N.J.-BRED PROGRAM HELP NEW FORMULA WORK

By John Piassek ■ *Photographs by Equi-Photo Inc.*

"Less is more" might be a cliche, but it certainly held true for this year's Monmouth Park season.

The venerable New Jersey track raced 51 days this year, compared to 60 in 2022. Average daily total handle rose for the third consecutive season, increasing 11.4 percent to $4,032,648. In addition, average daily on-track handle jumped 15 percent to $340,257, while the average field size of 7.71 was the largest since 2015.

"We put on quality racing," said John Heims, Monmouth's director of racing and racing secretary, about what made Monmouth's meet such a success. "The product we put on, coupled with the field sizes, plus the number of turf races we were capable of running, it all added up. To be up double digits [in average handle] in each of the last three years, and to continue on this trend, I think it's a good sign for the future that not only are we proving that our models are working, and that bettors and horsemen are responding."

Heims noted increased enthusiasm among horsemen for Monmouth's racing product.

"I think this has become a place that horsemen aren't only considering, but are circling [on their calendar]," said Heims. Since Monmouth is not part of a year-round racing circuit, Heims must convince horsemen who race out-of-state in the off-season to spend their summers at the Jersey Shore. Fortunately, the calendars of many tracks, such as Oaklawn Park, make Monmouth's May-to-September schedule a perfect complement.

"You're talking about a one-ship deal. If you're here, you stay until October 31, ship right to Oaklawn, then come back here in May. We've had a similar deal with Tampa Bay Downs for a long time. It undoes a burden that several horsemen would've had prior. I'll head back to Oaklawn this winter and try to continue the pattern of getting guys to say, 'Maybe not the Midwest, maybe we'll consider going to the Jersey shore, give it a shot.' It's a wonderful facility, we have a very safe racing surface, it's a great place to train your horses, so there's plenty of things on the table."

Dennis Drazin, the track's chairman and CEO, gave Heims and his team credit for the improved product: "I think the handle jumping is attributable to the quality of product we had. We've had more horses than we've had the past few years, and they were very careful in trying to get races to go that made sense, that we thought would generate more handle. It's tough to get the races to go, but for the most part, the horsemen supported the entry box. I think that was a big part of what made it such a successful meet."

Last year, Monmouth raced Mondays in August, but did not do so this year, keeping a Friday-through-Sunday schedule for virtually the entire season.

"We were hoping to take advantage of a void in the marketplace, but it simply didn't pan out. It was one of those trial-and-error things, it didn't work, and we went back to a schedule that was conducive to what we wanted to do." said Heims. "We raced eight races on Fridays [as opposed to six a day in 2020 and 2021], and by adding the extra races, you can make up a few days by the end of the season."

As usual, the headliner of the racing season was Haskell Stakes-G1 day July 22, which featured four other graded stakes in addition to the main event. The card handled a record $21,359,642, the biggest non-Breeders' Cup wagering day in New Jersey racing history.

"That program's really been built up," said Heims. "The purses have increased in recent years. People used to say, 'Why bother?' but now, they're not just going to bother, they're going to circle it."

California-based Geaux Rocket Ride, trained by Richard Mandella and ridden by Mike Smith, won the Haskell, with Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage second and Arabian Knight, who went on to win the Pacific Classic-G1, third.

New Jersey-breds have always been the backbone of Monmouth's racing program, and with the revitalization of the state's breeding industry in recent years, the product has reaped the benefits. In 2021, there were 114 Jersey-breds foaled, an increase for the third consecutive year.

Notable state-breds to race at Monmouth this year included John Bowers Jr. homebred He'spuregold, who won the Irish War Cry Handicap for the third consecutive year July 10; Speaking, winner of the John J. Reilly Handicap May 21 and the Aug. 27 New Jersey Breeders Handicap for owner/breeder Holly Crest Farm; Mia's Crusade, who took the Spruce Fir Handicap May 20 and Eleven North Handicap Aug. 27 for Joseph and Gayle Ioia and Chuck Spina; Holly Crest's Great Navigator, who prevailed in the Charles Hesse III Handicap Aug. 27, then finished third in the Vosburgh-G2 at Aqueduct behind Cody's Wish Oct. 1; and 2-year-old Book'em Danno, winner of the Smoke Glacken Stakes for Atlantic Six Racing Sept. 9 who followed with a win in the Futurity at Aqueduct Oct. 8.

Michael Campbell, executive director of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey, attributed the increase to several factors.

"The purse subsidies we've received from the state for the last few years have helped. It's given people confidence that the racing and breeding programs are going to continue. We don't have alternate sources of revenue like other states, so when people are determining where to foal their horses, they want to know that the program's on solid foundation. People in New Jersey have also started to increase the quality of their mares. They're starting to go to better stallions, not just in the Mid-Atlantic, but in Kentucky."

Heims called the state-bred program a foundation to Monmouth's racing product.

"When you get a nice state-bred program, you know people will enter those races and create full fields," he said. "People are breeding their mares to better stallions, they're expecting tougher fields, and people are looking at this and saying, 'Look at these incentives.' If you win a Jersey-bred race at Monmouth, the breeders' award is $10,000. That's a few months' worth of bills right there."

New Jersey-breds Speaking (top) and Mia's Crusade (middle) each won two state-bred added-money races during the meet. Never off the board in nine starts, Great Navigator (bottom), a 3-year-old Holly Crest Farm homebred by Pegasus Stud's Sea Wizard, recorded his first stakes win in the Charles Hesse III Handicap over older runners and followed with a thrid in the Grade 2 Vosburgh behind Cody's Wish in New York.

> "When you get a nice state-bred program, you know people will enter those races and create full fields."
>
> *– Racing secretary John Heims, on the impact of an improved New Jersey-bred program on Monmouth Park*

New Jersey breeders can even choose a few home stallions now. Sea Wizard, who stands at Carmine Spinella's Pegasus Stud in Colts Neck, had eight winners from his second crop as of Oct. 3. They include Sea Streak and Ship to Shore, second and third, respectively, in the Smoke Glacken. Sea Streak returned to win a maiden special at Aqueduct Oct. 1. In addition, Great Navigator is a member of Sea Wizard's first crop.

New Jersey will get three new stallions for 2024. Invader, a stakes-winning son of War Front, and graded-stakes placed Vindictive, by Uncle Mo, will join Sea Wizard at Pegasus Stud.

The biggest name, however, is Max Player. The son of Honor Code won four stakes and earned more than $1.5 million in his 16-race career, including the 2021 Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1. He'll stand at Annestes Farm in Middletown, owned by his owner, George Hall.

Campbell is thrilled with the stallion boom, and especially the addition of Max Player.

"To have three new stallions, all by very good sires, all with great pedigrees, it's something we haven't had in a while in New Jersey," he said, "and we're certainly looking forward to those horses standing here. I think [Max Player] is going to be really good for New Jersey, being a Grade 1 winner with that kind of pedigree. It's not very often you get a Grade 1 winner to stand here."

Drazin is optimistic about Monmouth's future. He remains bullish on fixed-odds betting, expanded further this year following its launch last year. This year, bettors could place fixed-odds wagers on self-service machines and off-track through the Monmouth Bets app. In addition, fixed odds were available on other tracks besides Monmouth, such as Canterbury Park, Delaware Park, Emerald Downs and Hawthorne, among others.

"In most races, the payoffs were higher in fixed odds than they were in the pari-mutuel pools," said Drazin. "One of the biggest complaints I get is when people bet a horse at one price, and by the time the race goes off, the odds are much lower. You can bet a horse at 2-1 or 3-1, and the horse goes off at 3-5 and 4-5. With fixed odds, the price you bet at is the price you get paid off on. It has encouraged people to pick their spots a little bit more and get people to learn more about racing. It's been very popular with the customers who use it."

Drazin is hopeful to add bigger signals in the future. "Once we get tracks like NYRA on board, that would certainly grow the product. However, different states need different legislative changes or regulatory changes from their commissions to allow fixed-odds wagering, and that's taken a bit longer than expected."

In addition, Drazin said capital improvements are coming to the Monmouth property, including a joint venture with Caesar's on a new sports book. A residential project, spearheaded by Morris Bailey, is set to launch soon, featuring 300 residential units, a hotel and on-site entertainment, with the goal of making Monmouth a multifaceted destination. There are also plans to create wagers combining horses and sports, enabling crossover between bettors of both disciplines.

SHORE THINGS: For the second straight year, **Claudio Gonzalez** and **Paco Lopez** captured the trainer and jockey titles, respectively. Gonzalez won 46 races from 198 starts, more than doubling up runner-up Chad Brown, who won 21 races. Lopez won his 10th riding title, winning 76 races from 303 mounts. Only Joe Bravo, with 13, has won more riding championships at the track. Klaravich Stables took the owner title, with 13 wins . . . In addition to the Charles Hesse, Monmouth hosted a trio of stakes races on Labor Day weekend. **Beaute Cachee** won the Violet Stakes Sept. 2, with Nik Juarez aboard for Brown and owners Madaket Stables, Michael Dubb and Louis Lazzinnaro . . . **Stage Left** battled on the lead and held on to win the Sept. 3 Rumson Stakes, with Lopez aboard for owner/trainer David Jacobson . . . Lopez earned another stakes victory in the Sept. 4 Red Bank, winning with Neil Drysdale trainee **St Anthony**. The 4-year-old gelding is a homebred for Alice Bamford . . . Rain knocked the closing day feature, the Sept. 10 Presious Passion Stakes, off the turf. **Serifos** prevailed in the 1½-mile dirt contest, with Juarez in the saddle for owner/breeder Wertheimer and Frere and trainer Graham Motion. ■

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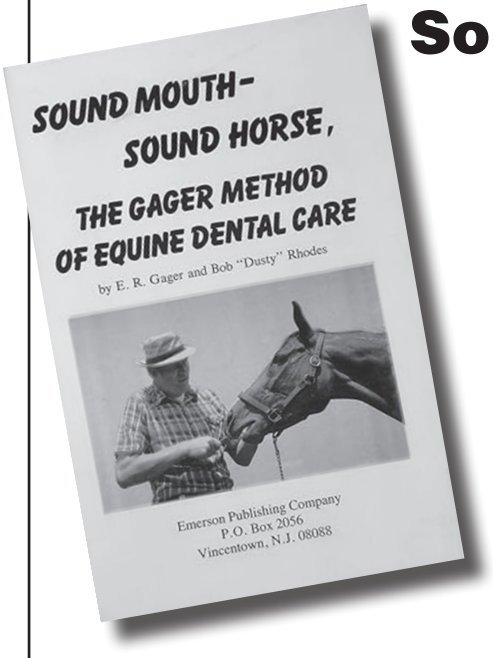

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Show of Force

PENNSYLVANIA-BRED NIMITZ CLASS UPSETS GUNITE IN PARX DIRT MILE

By Paul Halloran ■ *Photographs by Equi-Photo Inc.*

It was entirely appropriate that a horse named after a line of warships would find clear sailing on rain-soaked Pennsylvania Derby Day at Parx Racing Sept. 23.

"They're big, they're fast, they're deadly and they're built to beat all of their opponents," said Tom Coulter, breeder and owner of Nimitz Class, named for the United States Navy class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers (which are named for Admiral Chester Nimitz, a World War II hero).

The Pennsylvania-bred son of Munnings faced six opponents in the $300,000 Parx Dirt Mile, none more formidable than Gunite, coming off a convincing win over champion Elite Power in the Forego Stakes-G1 at Saratoga. Ironically, that performance gave Coulter more than a fleeting hope of pulling off the upset at Parx.

"I've handicapped horses my whole life and I've found that horses that run really big at Saratoga sometimes bounce in their next race," said Coulter, who owns Arrowwood Farm in York Springs, Pa. "The trainers point them for a maximum effort at Saratoga."

Coulter in not professing to have outsmarted Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen, who trains Gunite, but a pattern is a pattern and when you're trying to outgun an odds-on favorite, you look for any positive trends you can find.

"We have observed that pattern in a lot of horses and it gave me reason to think that maybe our horse is coming back to top form and if the other horse is not in top form, that would be in our favor," Coulter said. "And, Gunite had not proven himself around two turns and we had."

An actuary by trade, Coulter could not have analyzed the race any better. You certainly couldn't argue the top-form argument, as Nimitz Class had four wins and three consecutive seconds heading into the Dirt Mile.

Nimitz Class, out of Five Diamonds, one of 26 broodmares Coulter keeps at Arrowwood, sat off Mish and Gunite through a half-mile in :47.59. After Gunite, who seemed to struggle with the sloppy surface in the early stages, took the lead on the far turn, Nimitz Class took aim and caught him as they hit the stretch call, then cruised to a 1¾-length victory for jockey Paco Lopez.

The $175,500 winner's share increased his career earnings to $709,980 and represented Coulter's biggest payday in 25 years as an owner.

Is it even more special to do that with a homebred?

"I don't know. I've never run anything other than homebreds," he said. "It vindicates our breeding program. We have a handle on how to breed horses and raise horses. This is a good indication we are heading in the right direction."

It also vindicates Coulter's decision to buy Five Diamonds for $52,000 as a broodmare prospect at the 2011 Keeneland November sale. He had her and a mare named Five Grand Girl on his short list and alphabetization resulted in the two appearing on consecutive pages in the catalogue.

"I bid on both and I got both," Coulter said. "I had no idea which one would be the better producer, but Five Diamonds turned out to be the one."

Nimitz Class is her fifth foal to race and the most successful, though his full-sister Kaylasaurus won two stakes and earned $350,683, making 18 of her 25 career starts for Coulter before he sold her. Jump Shift, by Pennsylvania legend Smarty Jones, ran out just under $105,000 in purses

Nimitz Class leads Gunite home in the Parx Dirt Mile on the Pennsylvania Derby undercard, much to the delight of trainer Bruce Kravets (left) and owner/breeder Tom Coulter.

for Coulter, who sends about two-thirds of his mares to be bred in Kentucky and keeps the rest in the Mid-Atlantic. Five Diamonds has a Mendelssohn weanling and is in foal to Jack Christopher.

Trainer Bruce Kravets went into the Parx Dirt Mile with slightly less optimism, or perhaps more realism.

"To be honest, with Gunite in the race it looked like everybody else was running for second money," he said. "I thought we could be the best of the others and if our horse ran his best race he could make a race of it and that's what he did."

He did much more than that in improving his career record to 20-11-4-0 with six stakes wins.

Coulter and Kravets hadn't decided what's next, though if they want to take a shot at another level of combat, there is the Cigar Mile-G1 at Aqueduct Dec. 2.

Pretty Easy Win

Gunite wasn't the only odds-on favorite to be sunk on the Derby docket, as One More Kelly, a 15-1 bred and owned by the Warrior's Reward partnership, led every step of the $100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes for Pennsylvania-bred fillies and mares.

"Jaime Rodriguez rode her last time at Penn National [in the Fort Indiantown Gap Stakes Aug. 18] and the instructions were to take a hold," said trainer Jamie Ness, who took over the conditioning when the filly was shipped to Parx for this race. "He said that's not what she wants to do. He had experience with her, that's what got the win for us."

Rodriguez sent One More Kelly, by top-10 nationally-ranked sire Not This Time, to the lead, repelled a challenge from Lindalovesgold at the quarter pole, and held off 3-5 favorite Morning Matcha, who was guided to the rail by Lopez in the stretch, a move that few others attempted on this day.

One More Kelly splashes to victory over Morning Matcha in the Plum Pretty Stakes for the Warrior's Reward partnership.

"It means a lot. We all know it's not easy to win and the amount of patience and time it takes to get a homebred to race. It's quite rewarding to win on that day."

– Co-owner/breeder Don Brown, about stakes winner One More Kelly

"Little bit of an unexpected win. On form I thought it was my worst shot [of nine entered in seven races]," Ness said. "The idea was to keep her clean. The racetrack helped her out. She benefitted from being a frontrunner on a sloppy track. She was going to be hard to catch."

Don Brown, who owns Warrior's Reward in partnership with Tom McClay, agreed with that assessment.

"The weather might have helped us," Brown said. "She's been coming along. She was a June [2019] foal. She's never been mentally mature until recently. Now she's putting it together."

One More Kelly, out of pensioned broodmare Kelly Mac, made her first nine starts at Presque Isle for Tim Girten, then the next dozen at Penn National and Parx for Brandon Kulp, who encouraged the owners to ship the filly to Parx in search of her first stakes score.

"Brandon Kulp did a really good job with her," Brown said. "We wanted to run back in a stakes and we know the best way to give yourself a chance at Parx is to train over the surface. Brandon said she was doing well and we wouldn't be making a mistake running her in a stakes. We talked to Jamie Ness and he said he would take her."

Notice of Action delivers for Bobbi Anne and Andy Hawthorne in the Prince Lucky Stakes.

It was the latest success for Brown and McClay, who stand Pennsylvania's leading stallion – and the namesake of their partnership – at WynOaks Farm in Delta, having bought him from Spendthrift Farm for $175,000 in 2018.

"It means a lot," Brown said. "We all know it's not easy to win and the amount of patience and time it takes to get a homebred to race. It's quite rewarding to win on that day."

Family Matters

On the 2022 Pennsylvania Derby card, jockey Andy Hernandez picked up his first graded stakes win when he took the Turf Monster-G3 with That's Right. This year, Hernandez delivered the first stakes win for trainer Bobbi Anne Hawthorne and her husband, owner Andy Hawthorne, when Notice of Action lived up to his even-money favoritism with a half-length win in the $150,000 Prince Lucky Stakes for Pennsylvania-bred and sired 2-year-olds.

"It is. Could you tell?" said the excited and somewhat surprised trainer when asked about the first stakes score. "We'll enjoy this one."

Andy Hawthorne was grateful all around.

"She feeds me, and she trains the horses," he said. "This is awesome, just terrific. What kind of words can you put on this? Sometimes you go over there at 3-2 [odds] and it doesn't work out. Even money on a bad racetrack? I didn't want a bad racetrack because he ran so well on a fast racetrack the first time. This horse apparently has some versatility."

Notice of Action, a $15,000 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling purchase bred by Bryan Minnich, prompted the pace set by Chilling Hassle, took the lead midway on the turn and held off a wide Lost and Confused. It was the second win in two career starts for the son of Hoppertunity out of the Jump Start mare Be a Gem, who broke his maiden at Parx a month earlier.

"I actually thought he might need a race," said Bobbi Anne Hawthorne, who has 15 horses in her stable. "He kind of surprised us, so this is just icing on the cake. We're excited."

When it comes to picking out horses, the Hawthornes are disciplined and discerning buyers.

"My husband and I always go to the Timonium yearling sale and we buy one horse," Bobbi Anne said. "We're a small outfit. We gave $15,000 for him. I liked the way he walked. We brought him along and got lucky with this one. He's

Aoife's Magic gets cleaned up before heading to the winner's circle after winning the Imply Stakes.

totally laid back. I still gallop all my horses and he's lovely to work with, just a nice colt."

Magical Performance

At the same sale where the Hawthornes bought Notice of Action, Art Hetherington of A and J Racing Stable paid exactly $1,000 more for a Smarty Jones filly out of the Drosselmeyer mare Polarized. One race after the Prince Lucky, Aoife's Magic romped in the $150,000 Imply Stakes for state-bred and sired 2-year-old fillies.

"Winning a stakes on any day is unbelievable but this is great," Hetherington said. "The farm said she was really special. I'm surprised, but very pleased. She certainly did what she was supposed to do today."

Jockey Wilfred Vasquez, who won the first stakes of his career, had Aoife's Magic mid-pack in the early going, but made an authoritative move on the turn and opened up in the stretch to win by 4¼ lengths.

"The owner and I went to the yearling sale," said trainer David Dotolo. "There were two we were interested in, her and one later in the day. We decided to go for her. She looked bigger than a lot of the yearlings, much higher butt. That was the one we wanted. Good deal so far."

Dotolo thought he had something heading into her debut, but he wasn't necessarily expecting a 10-length win.

"Her works in the mornings were good works, but we weren't asking her to do it," he said. "She wants to do it. You have to take her back and slow her down a bit. She's just a nice

filly. She's done everything right so far. She wants to go. She just likes to run. One of the smartest horses I've been around."

Parx Pieces

■ The story of the $400,000 Turf Monster-G3 was bittersweet.

Tyler Gaffalione gave Nobody Listens a heady, frontrunning ride as he won his fourth consecutive race, first graded, and increased his career earnings to $704,230.

"He's an Indiana-bred we bought at the Ocala Breeders' Sales as a 2-year-old in training," proud co-owner Roger Browning said. "Ever since, he's just been amazing. We knew we had a nice speed horse. We just brought him to Indiana and let him win a couple of stakes there. And when he developed we started him out on the trail."

Browning was talking about a possible start in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1, which makes the events of the following day even more heartbreaking. On the way back to Indiana, Nobody Listens was spooked by the loud noise of a nearby truck braking, slipped in his stall on the trailer and severed an artery, suffering a fatal injury.

"The ride Nobody Listens took us on was the greatest one we have ever been on," co-owner Matt Kwiatkowski posted on social media. "Our hearts are broken as we share this tragic news."

■ After Indiana-bred Nobody Listens won the Turf Monster on a course that would be kind to label as a bog, the $100,000 Alphabet Soup Handicap was taken off, pleasing trainer Butch Reid, though he may have felt it was one race too late.

Reid won the Alphabet Soup with King Kumbalay, who had previously raced on only dirt and synthetic, and was asked when he learned the stakes would be taken off the turf.

"When the jock came back off Smooth B [in the Turf Monster] he said, 'We're not riding on the turf anymore,' " said Reid, whose Beren would have been a prohibitive favorite had the Turf Monster been moved to dirt.

The late notice benefitted Reid, who kept Fore Harp in the Alphabet Soup and watched him complete the exacta.

Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard, who died in August, bred King Kumbalay after purchasing dam Lovely Stay from longtime client George Strawbridge Jr. Sheppard trained much of the female family, including graded winner Ratings, but sold King Kumbalay for $35,000 as a yearling in 2019. Kingsport Farm made that purchase, and has been rewarded with six wins and $298,230 through Oct. 9.

■ In the main event, the $1 million Grade 1 Pennsylvania Derby, Saudi Crown, owned by Saudi Arabia-based Faisal Alqahtani of FMQ Stables and trained by Brad Cox, picked up his first graded stakes with a gate-to-wire win, setting off a celebration that would have been appropriate for Louisville in May.

"It is a historic race," Alqahtani said. "Saudi Crown is all about speed. He's a winner as a sprinter, he's a winner as a two-turn horse. That's just fabulous. And he has more to do. Today he showed the world what class he is."

■ In the $1 million Cotillion, in which track announcer Jessica Paquette became the first woman to call a Grade 1 race in North America, California invader Ceiling Crusher led every step on the way to a half-length victory over Kentucky Oaks-G1 winner Pretty Mischievous.

"The question was if she could handle the distance [1⅛ miles]," said jockey Edwin Maldonado, given a leg up by trainer Doug O'Neill. "We just let her kick and do her thing. She's been running short and taking the lead sprinting, so I just needed a good break and we got a good break. The rest was her."

■ Next, who has become the top dirt marathoner in the country, rolled to a 25-length win in the $200,000 Grade 3 Greenwood Cup Stakes, his third stakes win in a row at 1½ miles or more. Defending winner Ridin With Biden forced the pace until the far turn of the 1½-mile race before tiring badly; jockey Paco Lopez appeared to ease him approaching the wire and was caught in the last jump by 85-1 My Imagination. Lopez was subsequently suspended 30 days by the Parx stewards for failure to give his best effort and failure to use the proper diligence.

■ Favorite Damon's Mound won the $400,000 Grade 2 Gallant Bob Stakes for 3-year-olds for owners Michele and Cliff Love, trainer Michelle Lovell and jockey Junior Alvarado. ■

> "She wants to do it. You have to take her back and slow her down a bit. She's just a nice filly. She's done everything right so far . . . One of the smartest horses I've been around."
>
> *– Trainer David Dotolo, about Aoife's Magic*

Wide Awake

MARYLAND-BRED INTREPID DAYDREAM PUTS UP BIG SEPTEMBER

By John Piassek

September was a dream month for Intrepid Daydream.

The big 4-year-old Maryland-bred daughter of Jess's Dream, who weighed in at over 1,100 pounds in two trips to the scale at Laurel Park this summer, picked up two big victories in September for breeder/owner Larry Fowler Jr. and trainer Gary Capuano. On Sept. 16, she earned her first stakes victory, winning the Shine Again Stakes at Pimlico by 1½ lengths. Twelve days later, she won the $100,000 Tax Free Shopping Distaff for Delaware-certified horses at Delaware Park by 2¾ lengths. Usually run as a stakes race, the Tax Free Shopping Distaff, and all other major Delaware-certified races, were run under allowance conditions this year to allow participants to run on Lasix.

Stakes or not, the victories marked the apex of Intrepid Daydream's career and validated the potential she's shown flashes of throughout her career. She took it all a step further when, thanks to a late scratch, she entered the Maryland Million Distaff at Laurel Park Oct. 14 and won by 3 lengths, boosting her earnings to $318,350.

Fowler, a financial manager at Moors and Cabot in Alexandria, Va., has been involved in racing for more than three decades. He first teamed up with Capuano in 1992, when the pair claimed Jest Punching for $20,000 at Laurel Park. The Maryland-bred son of Two Punch went on to win five stakes and earn more than $350,000. Another Fowler/Capuano runner, Grundlefoot, won six stakes, including the 2002 Baltimore Breeders' Cup Handicap-G3, and earned more than $600,000.

Not long after selling Grundlefoot to Saudi Arabian interests, Fowler and Capuano purchased Intrepid Daydream's second dam, Hongkong Tour, for $6,000 at the 2006 Keeneland September yearling sale. She won her first two starts in fall 2007, then went to the sidelines due to hind-end issues. Returning to the races in December 2008, she rattled off two more victories, but was retired for good after a fifth in the 2009 What a Summer Stakes.

"She became my breeding operation," said Fowler. "It was sort of an accident."

Hongkong Tour hit the ground running in her second career.

Her first foal, Touring Hong Kong (Cherokee's Boy), earned $156,686 and has produced three winners for current owner Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias, including stakes winners V. I. P. Ticket (Windsor Castle) and Award Wanted (Macho Uno). Second foal Intrepid Tour never raced, but has produced three winners from as many foals to race. One is Intrepid Daydream's older full-sister, Intrepid Dream, who started her career 4-for-5 and is on the comeback trail, having not raced since November 2022

"She puts out big, strong, good-looking horses," said Fowler. "They're correct, none of them have her conformation, and they look really good. The older one [Intrepid Dream], she weighs 1,400 pounds when she's in shape. It's unbelievable how big they are.

"They're very calm, good to everybody, not a bad bone in 'em. They have great temperaments, very nice, mild-mannered horses."

Intrepid Daydream was foaled at Christmas Farm in Upper Marlboro, Md., May 6, 2019, and earned her Delaware certification at Lynn Ashby's Marlynn Meadow Farm in Middletown. When she joined Capuano's barn as a 2-year-old, he was impressed.

HOOFPRINTS, INC.

Intrepid Daydream won the $100,000 Tax Free Shopping Distaff allowance at Delaware Park in September.

"I had her sister the prior year, and when Intrepid Daydream got here, she was pretty similar," said the trainer. "She wasn't quite as big, but she was more stout, had more substance to her. She had a great disposition, just like the rest of the family. They do everything right, they're quiet and easygoing."

Fowler and Capuano thought enough of her to debut her in the Small Wonder Stakes at Delaware in September 2021. Sent off at 4-1 as the lone first-time starter in the field, she dealt with some traffic in the stretch and finished fifth.

"We ran her there because we thought she had a pretty good chance, and she didn't break well and got into some trouble," Capuano said. "She ran a superb race that day."

Next out, a month later, she broke her maiden by 16¾ lengths, but went to the sidelines not long afterward due to shin issues.

When she returned in August 2022, Intrepid Daydream didn't lose a step. She won her first two starts of the year at Delaware by a combined 15½ lengths. A fourth in the Tax Free Shopping Distaff proved to be her sophomore swan song. A knee chip was discovered not long afterward, and the injury put her on the shelf once again, returning to Marlynn Meadow for recuperation.

"We were thinking of giving her a little bit of time anyway," said Capuano, "We X-rayed her just to make sure, and we saw that, so we thought we'd just get it out of there and get her back as a 4-year-old."

Eight months later, Intrepid Daydream made her 2023 bow, finishing second in an allowance at Laurel Park June 16 in her first start outside of Delaware. Next out, she was a game third in the Caesar's Wish Stakes at Laurel July 15, earning her first stakes-placing following a long duel with her "cousin," Award Wanted. The two fought all the way around, and Hybrid Eclipse rallied from last to swallow them up and win by a neck.

After another game second at Colonial Downs Sept. 1, Fowler and Capuano decided to wheel her back in 15 days for the Shine Again.

"She came into that race really good," said Capuano. "She had just run a huge race at Colonial and just gotten nipped at the wire. We came back fairly quickly in the Shine Again,

> "She puts out big, strong, good-looking horses. They're correct, none of them have her conformation, and they look really good . . . They're very calm, good to everybody, not a bad bone in 'em."
>
> *– Owner/breeder Larry Fowler Jr. about broodmare Intrepid Tour*

but she looked really good in that spot, and it was a great next step for her."

It proved to be a shrewd move. Under Jevian Toledo, she pressed early leader Beneath the Stars, then drove to the lead on the turn and held the others at bay.

Twelve days later, Intrepid Daydream returned to Delaware from her Laurel Park base for the Tax Free Shopping. Once again, she battled on the pace, and this time, she kicked away to victory.

"She came out of the Shine Again so good, and the Tax Free Shopping was coming up, and she fit it well, being Delaware-certified," said Capuano. "It helped that she could run on Lasix. She ran really good without it, ran a little bit better with it, as most horses do. Any time you can help them like that, it makes it easier for them, and it makes it easier to bounce back off a hard race."

Despite the busy schedule, Intrepid Daydream still looks good as new: "She's a pretty big filly if you see her in person," said Fowler. "She still looked like a new, shiny penny when I came by to see her after the race. She went around the track well; she went through a lot of carrots, like three bags of 'em."

Capuano is happy with her progress this year.

"She's come back this year even stronger [than before]," he said. "It's looking like being patient and doing the right things with her is paying off."

Throughout the years and setbacks, Intrepid Daydream has maintained her laid-back attitude and fun personality: "She's like a little puppy dog. She's very quiet, easy to be around, trains unbelievable. Anything you want to do, she does. I'd like to give special thanks to Donnie Christmas for his work with my horses, as well as the grooms and workers at Ocala Stud in Florida, where they stay in the winter."

Though Intrepid Tour is Fowler's only broodmare for now, he intends on keeping Intrepid Daydream and her older sister as breeding stock upon their retirements, whenever that may be. Intrepid Tour also has an unraced 2-year-old by Imagining named Intrepid's Legacy, an unnamed weanling filly by Jess's Dream foaled March 10 and was bred to Blofeld for 2024.

Delaware Notes

In addition to the Tax Free Shopping Distaff, Delaware hosted three other Delaware-certified allowance races in the last week of September. **Just Great** fought hard in the stretch to win the $100,000 Small Wonder Sept. 27, with Jaime Rodriguez aboard for trainer Phil Capuano (Gary's son). The Maryland-bred daughter of Great Notion was bred by Keith Harpster and originally owned by Louis Ulman. Following a 13¾-length maiden breaking score at Delaware Aug. 31, she was purchased by Team Valor International and Gary Barber . . . **Copper Tax** drew off in the stretch to win the $100,000 First State Dash later on the Sept. 27 card, improving to 3-for-4 lifetime for Rose Petal Stable, Gary Capuano and Rodriguez. Less than three weeks later, he added the $100,000 Rocky Run Stakes Oct. 14. Sent off at 2-5, the Kentucky-bred won his fourth consecutive race – rising from $50,000 maiden claimer in June through two allowance races and the 1-mile stakes. Capuano purchased the 2-year-old son of Copper Bullet for $45,000 as a yearling at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's October sale. He's now earned $190,000. . . On the Sept. 28 program, **No Sabe Nada** wore down longtime leader Rebel Empire to take the $100,000 New Castle by a nose, with Kevin Gomez up for R Racing Stable and Ned Allard . . . The Sept. 16 Cape Henlopen Stakes went to turf veteran **Cross Border**, who wore down pace-setting Tawny Port to win by 2½ lengths. It was the fifth stakes victory and 13th overall triumph for the 9-year-old gelding, who won over hurdles at Aiken in March. Ruben Silvera rode for Three Diamonds Farm and Mike Maker . . . New York-based trainer Danny Gargan shipped **Ringy Dingy** in to take the $100,000 White Clay Creek Stakes for 2-year-old fillies Oct. 13. The 3-10 favorite scored by 6¼ lengths while winning for the second time in three starts for Peter Callahan and Reiley McDonald. The daughter of Dialed In cost $200,000 as a yearling at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky. ■

Virginia has lots of ways to play

Virginia Breeders

NEW Beginning in with foals of 2024, Virginia breeders will earn bonuses for registered Virginia-breds finishing 1st through 3rd in open races in North America (state-bred and state-sired races are excluded except at Colonial Downs and NSA sanctioned meets in Virginia*). Foals must be dropped in Virginia and the foal's dam must reside in Virginia from September 1st, 2023, until foaling the following year. Mares purchased at public sale after September 1st may enter the program if they arrive at a Virginia Facility within fifteen days of the purchase date (60 days if purchased outside of the U.S.).

BONUSES PROJECTED AT 30% OF EARNED PURSES

*Pending VA Commission approval

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Developers

VA-Certified Developers:

Developers of VA-Certified horses earn up to a 25% bonus for open wins in the Mid-Atlantic region (NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, WV), including NSA-sanctioned meets. VA-Certified Developers earn a 10% bonus for state-bred-restricted races in the Mid-Atlantic region. (Beginning with foals of 2023, bonuses will not be earned for wins in West Virginia).

VA-Bred or Sired Developers:

Beginning with foals of 2021, the developer will earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Owners

- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals prior to 2021 earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region, including NSA-sanctioned meets.
- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals earn a 50% bonus on purses 1st-4th in all open races at Colonial Downs.
- Increased purses for VA-Restricted races at Colonial Downs.
- VA-Restricted stakes and VA-Bred & VA-Sired stakes at Colonial Downs with up to $150,000 purses.
- Certified developer awards are not earned for out-of-state wins during the Colonial Downs race meet

See VaBred.org for program details

Or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716

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— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

November – The Big Clambake

For those of us interested in the long-term future of Thoroughbred racing, the Breeders' Cup is, obviously, the most important two days in our sport. The public thinks that the first Saturday in May is the pinnacle, but many more fortunes are made and lost in November. With races for almost every age, surface and sex, this is the opportunity to showcase the best racing has to offer.

Hard on the heels of that festival and taking up most of the month are the breeding stock sales in Lexington, Ky. Fasig-Tipton puts on a one-day fireworks display where million-dollar mares are thick on the grounds and then Keeneland follows with a two-week, 4,000-plus horse marathon that barely concludes in time for Thanksgiving. The bulk of the offerings in November are broodmares and weanlings although recently Keeneland has been adding horses of racing age to the menu.

November is where I really came to trust and appreciate the auction process as the best way to market a commodity whose value is really only in the eye of the beholder.

As usual, I have a couple of stories to illustrate this point. The first starts not in November but in August 1971. While Dixie and I were on our first trip to Saratoga and staying with our employers, Tootie and Cortie Wetherill, we were along for the ride when Cortie paid $100,000 for a chestnut filly by Jaipur out of the Polynesian mare Free Flowing from the consignment of Mrs. Joseph Walker's Rolling Plains Stable. The filly was a half-sister to the successful sire Rock Talk and from a good family.

Flash Flooding, as she was named, broke her maiden at Saratoga the following summer and was under consideration for the Spinaway Stakes at the end of the meeting. Unfortunately, there was an undefeated filly named La Prevoyante headed to the same race. She started her career with three stakes wins in Canada, won Saratoga's Schuylerville and was headed to the Spinaway.

As luck would have it, cooler heads did not prevail and La Prevoyante thrashed Flash Flooding in the Spinaway on the way to a 12-for-12 season and juvenile filly championships in the United States and Canada. Flash Flooding never returned to her maiden-breaking form and was eventually retired to the Wetherill broodmare band.

Cortie made up for his bad decision in Saratoga when, in 1976, he selected Roberto (1969, Hail to Reason—Bramalea, by Nashua) as the following year's mating for Flash Flooding. The Darby Dan Farm homebred Epsom Derby winner had been retired in 1974 and his first crop came to the races in 1977. In spectacular fashion. Roberto led all freshmen sires of 1977 in the United States and England, the latter through champion 2-year-old Sookera. By the summer of 1977 it was clear that Roberto was "the goods" and Cortie Wetherill decided it was the opportune time to sell his mare.

The appropriate price became $125,000 and I was tasked with finding a private buyer. My Rolodex was somewhat thin at that point, but I called every serious breeder I could track down. Everyone I called gave an unenthusiastic yawn and sent me packing. One call that I made was to Ric Waldman, then carrying Larry Ensor's water at Fasig-Tipton. Ric, just doing his job, encouraged me to consider putting the mare in Fasig's November sale. It took a lot of convincing, first of me and then of Cortie, but we eventually agreed.

As a one-horse consignment, on our first trip to Kentucky, the mare showed well and sold for $160,000. Nothing sells like a leading freshman sire. Ironically, the buyer was Ensor's client Howard Gilman. That commission paid the rent on our farm for more than a year. It was not lost on me that this was a lot more efficient than making 100 phone calls to no avail.

Fast forward 24 years to when I purchased Christmas Strike (1998, Smart Strike—Christmas Gift, by Green Desert), the mare who changed everything, at the November Sale in 2001 and 10 years later she rewarded us with one of our most fulfilling November memories.

Because she was by Smart Strike, I often sought stallions from the Northern Dancer line as mates. In 2010, Hard Spun attracted my attention. The Pennsylvania-bred son of Danzig was bred by Betty Moran and raced by Rick Porter. I had been to see him at Darley and liked that he was a big stretchy Danzig with a ton of speed. His first crop was coming to the races in 2011 and I had a feeling he would be the leading freshman sire. Kate Galvin at Darley was open to a foal share for Christmas Strike, so in 2010 our blue hen, with her Harlan's Holiday colt at foot, visited the court of Hard Spun.

I had purchased Christmas Strike from Ned Evans and when he died on New Year's Eve in 2010 it was announced that his Thoroughbred holdings would be dispersed at Keeneland in the fall of 2011. Among the mares to be dispersed was Christmas Kid, a half-sister to Christmas Strike who had won the Grade 1 Ashland Stakes at Keeneland. When Christmas Strike produced a nice Hard Spun colt in mid-April, the salesman who lives inside me started to plan the sale of that colt at the same November Sale where the Evans horses would light up the sky. Darley agreed and we entered the soon to be weanling.

There was only one problem, as September turned to October and the sale drew nigh the colt was kind of just a horse. He needed to be much more than that if we were going to ring a bell in November.

Dixie and I love to travel and that year, for the first time in recent memory, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris was not the same week as the Timonium yearling sale. Having had great sales in Maryland two years in a row, we made plans to attend the Arc and then spend 10 days touring Italy with friends Pam and Bill Maley. Before we left, we were resigned to the Hard Spun colt not looking mature or special enough to go to Keeneland and stand out.

We had a memorable trip but my disappointment over the colt was always in the back of my mind, hiding behind the Roman ruins and the pasta. When we arrived home Diane Kubulis and Liz Mitchell, our two "head girls," presented us with a mature, slick and special weanling unrecognizable from the one I had been fretting over for two weeks. I guess that, as a late-March foal, he needed every day we could give him to reach sales readiness.

Now there was only one problem – the pre-sale X-rays weren't perfect because of a small thing in a hock. In consultation with Kate at Darley, we decided it was worth the gamble based on Hard Spun's status as the leading freshman sire, and the colt's good looks.

He got to the sale and held up his end of the bargain. He showed great, looked the part, and his "auntie" Christmas Kid sold on Monday for $4.2 million. He sold on Tuesday and we put a reserve of $100,000. With the X-ray issue, I was really hoping he would sell. As an incentive to buyers, I even told those who showed interest that we would "stay in for a leg" if they bought him. Peter O'Callaghan, the noted pinhooker, told me he appreciated the gesture but "if" they bought him they would take the whole horse. The colt walked into the ring and was past the reserve before I could blink. In the end, Peter bought him for $195,000.

Those sales, Flash Flooding and Christmas Strike's Hard Spun colt, are just two of the reasons I trust the auction process and why Lexington is a great place to spend November. ■

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MHBA report to state authority spells out industry impact

By Joe Clancy

Stability. If there is one word that might summarize what the Maryland Horse Breeders Association desires when it comes to the future of the state's Thoroughbred industry, that's it. MHBA president Kent Murray and executive director Cricket Goodall made that point – and others – during a presentation to the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority Oct. 6.

Part of the authority's fact-finding mission, the presentation centered on the Thoroughbred industry's economic impact, history, future and place in the overall national industry. The MHBA and Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association made presentations on the same day, a week after a report from the Maryland Jockey Club. In August, the Maryland Stadium Authority updated the authority on the redevelopment options of Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park.

The various presentations are meant to educate the authority, created by state legislators to deliver a report by Dec. 1 recommending an operating model and a future course for Maryland racing. In its report, the MJC proposed fewer racing days (80-90 compared to 175 in 2022), increased purses and a bigger share of VLT revenue for the track operator. Horsemen countered with a longer meet and a non-profit model for racing's operations, comparing a future Maryland racing program to that of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club in California. In general terms, most future looks at racing in the state involve a consolidated live-racing calendar at a rebuilt Pimlico in Baltimore and the creation of a training center in another location.

The MHBA believes the model – no matter the operational framework – must consider the Thoroughbred industry and all its various components. Raising Thoroughbred horses preserves farmland, creates jobs, supports business of all sizes, generates economic activity and delivers tax revenue to the state – pointed out by an estimated $572 million impact of the racing and breeding sector, plus 705,000 total acres used for horse activities and $1 billion spent annually by equine industry participants.

"It was important for us to be heard and we appreciate the opportunity because there are people on the authority who don't have in-depth knowledge of the details we can provide about the breeding industry and its impact," said Goodall. "We talked about farms, the Chesapeake Bay and what that looks like for Maryland. Racing is not just the Preakness, it's not just Laurel and Pimlico, it's farms and jobs and the land and all that goes into raising horses."

Maryland-bred horses make up a third of all horses racing in the state, meaning that locally raised horses are a key part of the state's racing product. In short, Maryland-born horses support Maryland racing – a three-pronged partnership between the MHBA (representing breeders), the MTHA (representing on-track owners and trainers) and the racetrack owner (the Maryland Jockey Club and its parent company 1/ST Racing).

"It does take all three to work together to have a successful industry here – breeders, horsemen and track owners," said Goodall. "We have

all had the chance to give a report. We spent quite a bit of time trying to come up with a report that wasn't too detailed because it's pretty complicated what we do with the Maryland-bred fund and how that works."

Goodall and Murray went through a PowerPoint presentation, answered questions and left authority members with a more-detailed report to review afterward.

Nationally, Thoroughbred foal crops are decreasing. Registered Maryland-breds have held their own within the national trend, dipping from 1,135 in 2001 to just 393 in 2011 and rallying back to 695 in 2021 (the highest since 2008). Maryland-breds made up 3.6 percent of the North American foal crop in 2021. In 2001, it was 3 percent. In 2011, it was 1.6 percent. Maryland stallions covered 744 mares in 2022, a far cry from the 1,845 in 2002 though a similar percentage to the overall North American number.

The numbers are expected to decline based at least in part on the lack of stability in the racing program as Maryland strives to find a way forward from outdated facilities, financial losses by the Maryland Jockey Club and competition from surrounding states.

From the MHBA's perspective, the numbers spotlight an industry with a big footprint while also showcasing the importance of financial incentives (derived from a percentage of pari-mutuel handle and slots revenue) for breeders and owners of Maryland-bred and -sired horses. Individual race purses are part of the equation, but added awards tied to where a horse was foaled and/or conceived build a more solid foundation.

In 2022, owners and breeders of Maryland-bred racehorses and owners of Maryland-based sires received $8,694,100 in bonuses – restricted stakes purses, breeder, owner and stallion awards.

The awards help pay employees, contractors, veterinarians, farmers, mortgages and more and are vital. In its report to the authority, the MHBA highlighted that costs can reach $100,000 to breed a mare and raise a single foal through its 2-year-old year. A stable industry creates the confidence necessary to take on that expense.

Looking ahead, the MHBA proposed ways to create additional revenue for expanding the incentive program such as historic horse racing machines at racetracks like those in use in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana and Virginia; online betting; and a keno-style game called RaceTrax. Additional revenue streams could support restricted Maryland-bred and/or -sired races and the payment of breeder and owner incentives based on results at tracks outside of Maryland when racing is idle in the state.

"I don't know the right number of days and I don't think that's our role, but if the live-racing calendar includes fewer days in a new model, then we need to find a way to reward breeders," Goodall said. "Funds will still be accumulating. It's going to be different if it has to be, but that's OK. We'll do what we can to reward breeders and to encourage the breeding and raising of Thoroughbred horses in Maryland."

Authority meetings are scheduled through Dec. 1. ❧

Maryland-Breds in the 2023 Commercial Market

Keeneland September Yearling Sale
21 sold for $1,714,000 total — Average $81,619

Fasig-Tipton Sales (Saratoga and Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October)
150 sold for $4,648,500 total — Average $30,990

Total yearlings sold in 2023 (through 10/3):
171 for $6,362,500 — Average $37,207 (Median $12,000)

Highest price (sold at Saratoga): $775,000
Bred and sold by Country Life Farm (Bel Air, Md.), a filly by Gun Runner out of Starr of Quality

Maryland sires check in sixth on The Jockey Club's state leaderboard

Maryland retained its sixth-place ranking in 2023 among states and provinces by live foals by home-state stallions, according to statistics compiled by The Jockey Club (through Oct. 8).

Twenty-six Maryland stallions have a reported 498 live foals in 2023, compared to 481 last year (with the same number of stallions reported), an increase of 3.5 percent. Among the 10 states and provinces with the most mares covered in 2022, only three others showed an increase: Kentucky, New York and Indiana.

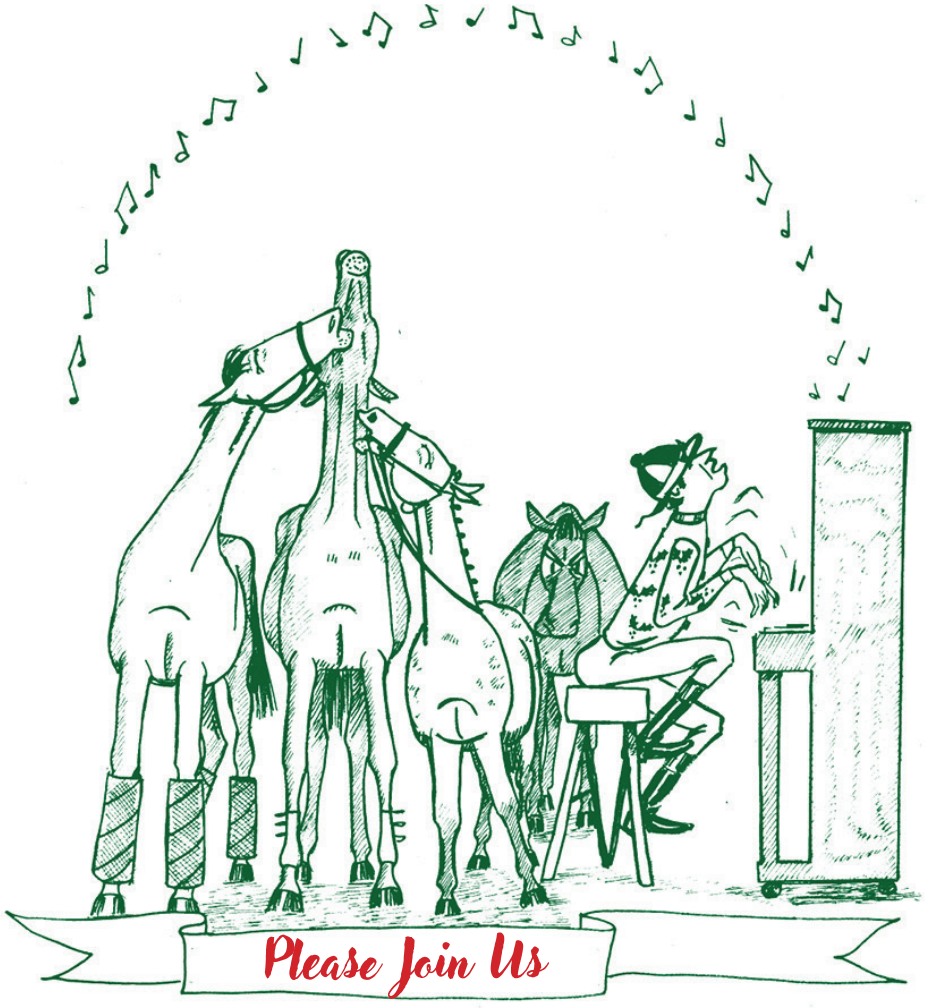
Overall, the 18,143 live-foal reports for 2023 in North America are down 2.5 percent from the same time last year, when The Jockey Club received reports for 18,609 live foals. The Jockey Club estimated that the live-foal number is approximately 85-90 percent complete.

Nationwide, the stallion population declined 4.2 percent, from 1,303 to 1,248 stallions, while mares bred declined 1.8 percent, from the 29,065 to 28,548.

In 2022, 744 mares were covered by Maryland stallions, with Murmur Farm stallion Blofeld topping the list with 86. This year, he leads with 61 live foals reported.

The following Maryland stallions also reported 20 or more live foals in 2023 (through Oct. 8):

- Engage, Northview Stallion Station (47)
- Divining Rod, Country Life Farm (45)
- Hoppertunity, Northview Stallion Station (39)
- Irish War Cry, Northview Stallion Station (39)
- Uncle Lino, Northview Stallion Station (35)
- Golden Lad, Northview Stallion Station (30)
- Great Notion, Northview Stallion Station (25)
- Long River, Anchor and Hope Farm (23). ❧



Holiday Open House
Maryland Horse Library & Education Center
Friday, December 15, 11 am–4 pm

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On the schedule at the Library

November 6: **Author Talk with Patrick Smithwick** | 4 p.m.

November 8: **Equine Nutrition Seminar** – A Howard & Sondra Bender Educational Series Event | 5:30 p.m.

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run in July 2023
at Maryland tracks

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Boss Man J J: July 15, 9th race, $2,160. Calming Storm: July 21, 4th race, $5,940/$1,980. Food Foodie: July 30, 6th race, $630. Gennie Highway: July 30, 2nd race, $720. Nick's Little Boy: July 7, 6th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($15,930)

Sharon Banford—Noble Belief: July 22, 6th race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

Barak Farm—Fivecommatwo: July 21, 6th race, $787.50. Royal Whisper: July 16, 5th race, $6,480. Water Witch: July 23, 8th race, $1,080. ($8,347.50)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Isabella's Glory: July 21, 6th race, $4,725.

Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen—Backnthewoods: July 2, 9th race, $8,370.

David Benjamin Bloom—Glorious Mahomes: July 2, 3rd race, $517.50; July 23, 2nd race, $517.50. ($1,035)

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Imagine It All: July 22, 5th race, $3,645. Seville Row: July 8, 9th race, $630. ($4,275)

Bonita Farm and Partners—Evangeline Allons: July 22, 3rd race, $585.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Cynergy's Electra: July 2, 2nd race, $1,935. Talk to the Judge: July 29, 4th race, $10,125. ($12,060)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Street Lute: July 1, 7th race, $3,150. Tanka Tough: July 9, 6th race, $1,980. ($5,130)

Dr and Mrs Thomas Bowman, Brooke Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—By the Sey Shore: July 9, 8th race, $900.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Double Crown: July 23, 7th race, $1,395. Nami: July 9, 6th race, $990. Shady Munni: July 21, 3rd race, $3,510. ($5,895)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Carvellian Quest: July 7, 4th race, $5,805.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Skeedattle Associates—Cynergy's Star: July 9, 7th race, $2,610; July 30, 7th race, $7,830. ($10,440)

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Congress Hall: July 7, 9th race, $1,170; July 22, 3rd race, $1,170. Rustys Gfivefifty: July 1, 4th race, $900. Super Accelerate: July 1, 5th race, $6,480; July 29, 5th race, $10,125. ($19,845)

Melissa Cantacuzene—Charming Way: July 30, 1st race, $4,860.

Louis C. Carrico—Alliallioxenfree: July 15, 6th race, $4,725.

Chanceland Farm—Italian War Cry: July 9, 5th race, $2,340.

Clover Hill Racing, LLC—Ladneedsahandler: July 2, 8th race, $6,480.

Cordelia Stables LLC—Victorian Riviera: July 22, 4th race, $540.

Country Life Farm—Dowsing Rod: July 16, 6th race, $652.50. Response Time: July 29, 8th race, $4,500. ($5,152.50)

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Sweet Talia: July 23, 8th race, $3,240.

Country Life Farm and Keep Right LLC—Pay Zone: July 21, 4th race, $1,980.

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: July 2, 5th race, $2,430; July 21, 7th race, $7,290; July 29, 4th race, $3,375. Wonder Water: July 7, 2nd race, $540. ($13,635)

Country Life Farm and Moonlit Malibu LLC—Esperannna: July 21, 9th race, $495.

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Sapphire Beauty: July 8, 2nd race, $3,105; July 23, 5th race, $1,260. ($4,365)

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: July 2, 3rd race, $3,105.

Country Roads Ltd.—My Flicker: July 30, 3rd race, $5,400.

Dark Hollow Farm—Circle Home: July 6, 3rd race, $7,020. Flitter: July 22, 6th race, $990. Free Admission: July 21, 2nd race, $1,305. Maryland Moon: July 8, 1st race, $990. Tauber: July 23, 4th race, $7,290. ($17,595)

Dark Hollow Farm and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov—Combat Queen: July 8, 4th race, $5,400; July 30, 3rd race, $900. ($6,300)

Cynthia J. Darrah-Hipple—Lady Zeta: July 2, 6th race, $6,480.

John C. Davison—Inside Stunt: July 29, 10th race, $3,780.

David M. DiPietro—Little Josie Wales: July 6, 3rd race, $1,170.

Elevate Equine LLC, DDRS and Ron Cuneo—Patriotic Party: July 7, 2nd race, $3,240.

Annette Eubanks—Lookin for Justice: July 30, 6th race, $3,780.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Hot Lookin Royal: July 1, 1st race, $3,780.

Fitzhugh LLC—Espresso Lungo: July 21, 1st race, $3,105.

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—Intrepid Daydream: July 15, 8th race, $2,250.

Robert J. Gerczak—Dialing Dixie: July 6, 2nd race, $2,970.

Glenangus Farm LLC—Riccio: July 8, 5th race, $2,160.

Holly House Farm—Summer Odds: July 2, 6th race, $2,160; July 16, 5th race, $2,160. Surprise Hello: July 2, 10th race, $2,340. ($6,660)

Kyle Horlacher—Crabs N Beer: July 8, 5th race, $1,080.

Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: July 16, 8th race, $1,215.

Jagger Inc.—Rowsie Express: July 1, 10th race, $4,725; July 29, 4th race, $1,687.50. ($6,412.50)

R. Larry Johnson—Fashionista: July 2, 4th race, $3,915; July 2, 4th race, $1,305. Naval Empire: July 14, 6th race, $7,290. Nineteenamendment: July 6, 3rd race, $2,340. Sky's Not Falling: July 15, 7th race, $2,250. Spun Glass: July 1, 6th race, $3,375. Street Copper: July 14, 8th race, $2,610. Zip Line to Heaven: July 15, 9th race, $1,080. ($24,165)

Carol A. Kaye—Air Token: July 30, 7th race, $1,305.

Nancy Jo Kolb—Mosley Natural: July 6, 1st race, $1,575.

David N. Krasnoff—Solomon's Choice: July 7, 3rd race, $1,305.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Holy Synchronicity: July 2, 9th race, $2,790; July 29, 9th race, $2,250. Never Grew Up: July 16, 2nd race, $1,980. ($7,020)

Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: July 21, 4th race, $990. Freeze the Fire: July 1, 5th race, $2,160. ($3,150)

Lewis Family Racing Stable—Hunter Joe: July 9, 8th race, $1,800.

Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Landon Jack: July 15, 2nd race, $1,575.

Little Man Farm—Benny Havens: July 23, 4th race, $1,215.

Magic Carpet Racing—Buckin' Lucky: July 14, 5th race, $990.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Imaginetheodds: July 22, 9th race, $1,305.

Marathon Farm Inc.—Abuelo Paps: July 30, 1st race, $1,620. Super E: July 9, 4th race, $1,440. ($3,060)

Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: July 16, 5th race, $1,080. Galerio: July 8, 8th race, $1,395. ($2,475)

Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable—Good Story: July 2, 1st race, $1,125.

Maryland Mare Venture LLC—Ellie Victorina: July 8, 2nd race, $1,035.

Mike Dalton LLC—Quincannon: July 22, 5th race, $607.50.

Kevin P. Morgan—Fancy Princess: July 22, 1st race, $4,860. World Factor: July 7, 3rd race, $652.50. ($5,512.50)

Murmur Farm—Bonded: July 29, 6th race, $4,860. Royal Spy: July 2, 8th race, $2,160. ($7,020)

Nancy Lee Farms—Police Woman: July 22, 7th race, $2,430.

No Guts No Glory Farm—Bandits Warrior: July 16, 3rd race, $1,305. Cocktail Dreaming: July 23, 5th race, $3,780. Irish Bandit: July 16, 4th race, $5,940/$1,980. Remember Me: July 1, 3rd race, $2,340; July 22, 2nd race, $7,020/$2,340. ($24,705)

Northview Stallion Station Inc.—Uncle Chinito: July 16, 4th race, $990.

Clarke Ohrstrom—Poggibonsi: July 2, 2nd race, $5,805; July 14, 4th race, $1,980. ($7,785)

A. Leonard Pineau—Sullivan Street: July 2, 4th race, $1,305.

Joel Politi—Thunder Boss: July 2, 1st race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Charles J. Reed—Johnyz From Albany: July 2, 7th race, $7,290.

Nancy M. Rizer and Eric A. Rizer—Princess Kokachin: July 1, 7th race, $9,450.

Thomas Rooney—Coffeewithchris: July 1, 9th race, $4,500; July 29, 5th race, $1,687.50. ($6,187.50)

Timothy J. Rooney—B Determined: July 15, 9th race, $6,480. Money's Worth: July 1, 6th race, $1,687.50. Pietrelcina: July 8, 1st race, $1,980. ($10,147.50)

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—Award Wanted: July 15, 8th race, $4,500.

Janice Sinatra—Daredavite: July 8, 9th race, $3,780. Jackie A: July 1, 4th race, $1,800. ($5,580)

Skeedattle Associates—Cush Effect: July 15, 1st race, $1,620.

Mary Slade—Island Philo: July 22, 7th race, $1,215.

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Looking for Water: July 22, 9th race, $3,915/$1,305. Spencerian: July 14, 1st race, $1,215. ($6,435)

Hamilton A. Smith—I'm Gittin There: July 16, 7th race, $7,830.

James Claude Smith Jr.—Claudee Boy: July 1, 2nd race, $3,645. Thunder Lad: July 16, 2nd race, $5,940/$1,980. ($11,565)

James B. Steele Jr.—Bobsworth: July 14, 3rd race, $1,125.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Circling the Drain: July 8, 5th race, $6,480. Easy Action: July 29, 5th race, $3,375. First to Arrive: July 22, 2nd race, $2,340. Frightland: July 1, 5th race, $1,080. Goodafternoonoscar: July 21, 5th race, $1,215. Northern Glow: July 16, 8th race, $2,430. War and Roses: July 1, 2nd race, $607.50. ($17,527.50)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Closertotheheart: July 14, 1st race, $607.50. Hardspun Reason: July 15, 3rd race, $1,215. ($1,822.50)

James F. Thames—Irish Warlock: July 23, 2nd race, $1,035.

The Edith Smart Administrative Trust—Political Decision: July 9, 1st race, $540.

The Elkstone Group, LLC—Emm Ess Eh: July 14, 5th race, $1,980. Hitch a Ride: July 2, 6th race, $1,080. The Addison Pour: July 14, 8th race, $1,305. ($4,365)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Canoodle: July 8, 4th race, $900. Coconut Cake: July 1, 6th race, $10,125. Hialeah Native: July 7, 1st race, $652.50. Sing Scat: July 16, 1st race, $3,645. Wish Me Home: July 15, 3rd race, $7,290. ($22,612.50)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—Too Many Kisses: July 22, 6th race, $1,980.

Two Legends Farm—Devil Pays in Gold: July 1, 10th race, $787.50. Hazelmoor Beach: July 16, 1st race, $607.50. ($1,395)

Walter N. Vieser II—All Threes: July 8, 8th race, $2,790; July 23, 7th race, $2,790. ($5,580)

Katharine Merryman Voss—Viennese Waltz: July 22, 2nd race, $1,170.

Mary P. Voss—Beyond the Pale: July 6, 1st race, $4,725.

Susan Wantz—Black Diamond Rain: July 15, 6th race, $787.50.

Warning Drums Racing LLC—Good Knight Nile: July 23, 6th race, $3,915.

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Rascally Rebel: July 15, 2nd race, $787.50; July 23, 2nd race, $3,105. Running River: July 2, 8th race, $1,080. ($4,972.50)

John E. Williamson III—Ournationonparade: July 7, 8th race, $3,150; July 29, 7th race, $2,250. ($5,400)

Karen Zeiler—We Got Lucky: July 23, 1st race, $652.50.

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Bobsworth: July 14, 3rd race, $375): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Box N Ben: July 21, 4th race, $330. Coconut Cake: July 1, 6th race, $3,375): Bandbox Syndicate—$3,705.

BARBADOS (Island Philo: July 22, 7th race, $405): Shamrock Farm.

BLOFELD (Bonded: July 29, 6th race, $1,620. Charming Way: July 30, 1st race, $1,620. Crabs N Beer: July 8, 5th race, $360. Johnyz From Albany: July 2, 7th race, $2,430. Royal

Spy: July 2, 8th race, $720): Murmur Farm for Blofeld Syndicate—$6,750.

BOURBON COURAGE (Calming Storm: July 21, 4th race, $1,980. Cocktail Dreaming: July 23, 5th race, $1,260. Double Crown: July 23, 7th race, $465. Never Grew Up: July 16, 2nd race, $660. Solomon's Choice: July 7, 3rd race, $435): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$4,800.

BUFFUM (Fancy Princess: July 22, 1st race, $1,620. Quincannon: July 22, 5th race, $202.50): Buffum Syndicate—$1,822.50.

CAL NATION (Ournationonparade: July 7, 8th race, $1,050; July 29, 7th race, $750): Cal Nation Syndicate—$1,800.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Summer Odds: July 2, 6th race, $720; July 16, 5th race, $720): R. Larry Johnson—$1,440.

DIVINING ROD (Dowsing Rod: July 16, 6th race, $217.50. Liquidator: July 2, 5th race, $810; July 21, 7th race, $2,430; July 29, 4th race, $1,125. Looking for Water: July 22, 9th race, $1,305. Rascally Rebel: July 15, 2nd race, $262.50; July 23, 2nd race, $1,035. Rustys Gfivefifty: July 1, 4th race, $300. Sweet Talia: July 23, 8th race, $1,080. Water Witch: July 23, 8th race, $360. Wonder Water: July 7, 2nd race, $180): Divining Rod Syndicate—$9,105.

DORTMUND (Evangeline Allons: July 22, 3rd race, $195. Victorian Riviera: July 22, 4th race, $180): Kaleem S. Shah—$375.

FRIESAN FIRE (Freeze the Fire: July 1, 5th race, $720. Hot Lookin Royal: July 1, 1st race, $1,260. Landon Jack: July 15, 2nd race, $525. Shady Munni: July 21, 3rd race, $1,170): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$3,675.

GOLDEN LAD (Air Token: July 30, 7th race, $435. I'm Gittin There: July 16, 7th race, $2,610. Ladneedsahandler: July 2, 8th race, $2,160. Rowsie Express: July 1, 10th race, $1,575; July 29, 4th race, $562.50. Talk to the Judge: July 29, 4th race, $3,375. Thunder Lad: July 16, 2nd race, $1,980): Golden Lad Syndicate—$13,147.50.

GREAT NOTION (All Threes: July 8, 8th race, $930; July 23, 7th race, $930. Brzina: July 16, 8th race, $405. Closertotheheart: July 14, 1st race, $202.50. Cynergy's Star: July 9, 7th race, $870; July 30, 7th race, $2,610. Flitter: July 22, 6th race, $330. Good Story: July 2, 1st race, $375. Little Josie Wales: July 6, 3rd race, $390. My Flicker: July 30, 3rd race, $1,800): Great Notion Syndicate—$8,842.50.

HEAVEN'S GLORY (JPN) (Glorious Mahomes: July 2, 3rd race, $172.50; July 23, 2nd race, $172.50): The Stallion Company—$345.

HOLY BOSS (Boss Man J J: July 15, 9th race, $720. Holy Synchronicity: July 2, 9th race, $930; July 29, 9th race, $750. Poggibonsi: July 2, 2nd race, $1,935; July 14, 4th race, $660. Thunder Boss: July 2, 1st race, $1,125): Holy Boss Syndicate—$6,120.

IMAGINING (Beyond the Pale: July 6, 1st race, $1,575. Hazelmoor Beach: July 16, 1st race, $202.50. Imagine It All: July 22, 5th race, $1,215. Imaginetheodds: July 22, 9th race, $435. Remember Me: July 1, 3rd race, $780; July 22, 2nd race, $2,340): Imagining Syndicate—$6,547.50.

IRISH WAR CRY (Fivecommatwo: July 21, 6th race, $262.50. Irish Bandit: July 16, 4th race, $1,980. Irish Warlock: July 23, 2nd race, $345. Italian War Cry: July 9, 5th race, $780. Sing Scat: July 16, 1st race, $1,215. Spencerian: July 14, 1st race, $405): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$4,987.50.

LONG RIVER (Food Foodie: July 30, 6th race, $210. Nick's Little Boy: July 7, 6th race, $1,125. Running River: July 2, 8th race, $360): Long River Syndicate—$1,695.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Buckin' Lucky: July 14, 5th race, $330. Cynergy's Electra: July 2, 2nd race, $645. We Got Lucky: July 23, 1st race, $217.50): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$1,192.50.

MOSLER (Bandits Warrior: July 16, 3rd race, $435. Esperannna: July 21, 9th race, $165. Luv Ya Bye Bye: July 2, 3rd race, $1,035. Mosley Natural: July 6, 1st race, $525. Noble Belief: July 22, 6th race, $1,980. Pay Zone: July 21, 4th race, $660. Response Time: July 29, 8th race, $1,500. Sapphire Beauty: July 8, 2nd race, $1,035; July 23, 5th race, $420): Mosler Syndicate—$7,755.

OUTFLANKER (Benny Havens: July 23, 4th race, $405): Outflanker Syndicate.

REDEEMED (Patriotic Party: July 7, 2nd race, $1,080): Redeemed Syndicate.

SEVILLE (GER) Gennie Highway: July 30, 2nd race, $240. Seville Row: July 8, 9th race, $210. Sky's Not Falling: July 15, 7th race, $750): Seville Syndicate—$1,200.

STREET MAGICIAN (By the Sey Shore: July 9, 8th race, $300. Cush Effect: July 15, 1st race, $540. Fashionista: July 2, 4th race, $1,305. Street Copper: July 14, 8th race, $870. Street Lute: July 1, 7th race, $1,050. Tanka Tough: July 9, 6th race, $660): R. Larry Johnson—$4,725.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2023

(through October 3)

1. Response Time	$204,940	11. Intrepid Daydream	$147,260
2. Award Wanted	202,500	12. Berks	142,570
3. Liquidator	201,570	13. Dulce Kiara	142,560
4. Al Loves Josie	189,343	14. Willful Desire	137,405
5. Eastern Bay	170,775	15. Coffeewithchris	134,750
6. Double Crown	166,955	16. It's Viper	132,600
7. Fille d'Esprit	152,780	17. All Threes	131,440
8. Holy Synchronicity	150,460	18. Poggibonsi	130,980
9. I'm Gittin There	149,430	19. Clubman	127,270
10. Princess Kokachin	147,660	20. Bosserati	125,900

Top Maryland Sires

Based on 2023 earnings through Oct. 19

(D-deceased; R-retired)

General earnings

Sire	*rnrs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Great Notion	118	60	$4,856,835
Cupid	111	46	3,074,702
Golden Lad	109	58	2,984,121
Uncle Lino	105	51	2,407,898
Divining Rod	73	39	2,157,747
Holy Boss	55	24	1,817,721
Blofeld	46	26	1,798,252
Mosler	64	32	1,711,984
Bourbon Courage	69	25	1,442,399
Hoppertunity	69	27	1,395,836

2-year-old earnings

Sire	*strs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Golden Lad	17	6	$420,197
Hoppertunity	21	8	416,246
Cupid	17	2	373,888
Madefromlucky	15	6	257,290
Bourbon Courage	14	4	239,260
Great Notion	14	5	238,445
Divining Rod	9	4	222,138
Imagining (D)	11	3	161,218
Irish War Cry	11	5	150,468
Blofeld	7	3	134,415

Second-crop sires

Sire	*foals*	*strs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Hoppertunity	154	69	27	$1,395,836
Irish War Cry	97	42	19	861,189
Long River	46	21	11	420,366

Lifetime sires

(Northern Hemisphere statistics only)

Sire	*foals*	*strs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Not For Love (D)	975	850	685	$82,792,766
Orientate (R)	794	651	503	47,606,676
Petionville (R)	765	692	537	46,982,081
Great Notion	523	421	320	37,021,511
Outflanker (D)	578	466	339	31,027,622
Friesan Fire	294	235	162	15,985,387
Rock Slide (D)	282	224	151	11,673,391
Golden Lad	275	169	116	10,815,052
Cupid	197	144	95	8,900,795
Bandbox (D)	132	96	70	7,785,805

Lifetime 2-year-old sires

(Northern Hemisphere statistics only)

Sire	*foals*	*strs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Not For Love (D)	975	368	139	$6,956,746
Orientate (R)	794	352	134	5,061,650
Petionville (R)	765	396	125	4,900,320
Great Notion	523	169	73	4,088,866
Outflanker (D)	578	246	96	3,726,089
Friesan Fire	294	127	40	2,070,973
Cupid	197	99	28	1,814,993
Golden Lad	275	81	33	1,781,520
Bourbon Courage	173	73	24	1,567,277
Divining Rod	120	66	28	1,389,106

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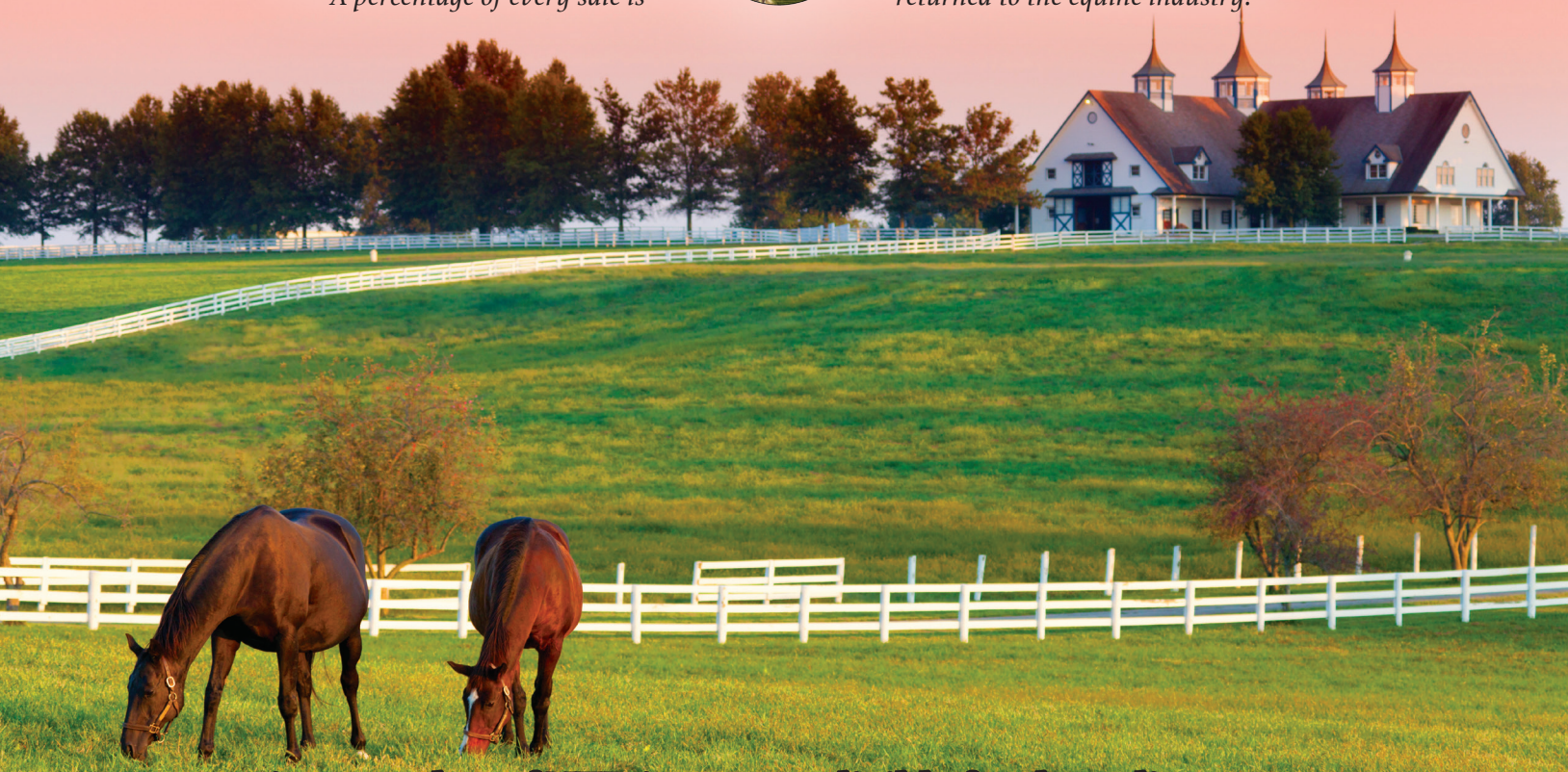

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THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **November 2023** -

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Book'em Danno leads Jersey-bred trifecta in Smoke Glacken Stakes

by Bill Finley

In the end, Steve McGarrett, played by Jack Lord, in the TV show *Hawaii Five-O* (1968-1980), always got his man. Each episode of the classic cop series ends pretty much the same way. McGarrett collars the latest villain, runs down the list of their crimes, and then says to his right-hand man Danny Williams, "Book'em, Danno!"

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

McGarrett never came out on the losing end. So, it's fitting that a group of six friends based on the Jersey Shore named a New Jersey-bred 2-year-old Book'em Danno. There will come a day when he loses a race, but it hasn't happened yet. Now 2-for-2 after beating open company in the $100,000 Smoke Glacken Stakes at Monmouth on Sept. 9, he looks like a New Jersey-bred bound for bigger and better things. By Bucchero, he won the 6-furlong stakes by 2 lengths and earned an 88 Beyer in the process.

"Besides getting married and having my kids, this was one of the most exciting things that's ever happened to me," said co-owner Jay Briscione. "The highs of this game are so high and the lows so low, so it's nice to be on the high side for once."

The Smoke Glacken turned into a shining moment for the New Jersey-bred program as state-bred Sea Streak finished second in what was his career debut. Ship to Shore, also a Jersey-bred, was third. The second and third-place finishers are both sons of Sea Wizard and are campaigned by Holly Crest Farm.

Book'em Danno, who is trained by Derek Ryan and owned by Atlantic Six Racing, began his career with a 9½-length win in a Jersey-bred maiden on Aug. 12. While Ryan liked the horse, he never expected him to blow away the competition the way he did.

"I figured he would run well first time out," Ryan said. "I expected him to be very close but I wasn't expecting him to win it as easy as he did. I don't crank them up for their first starts. A good horse will win anyway and he's a good horse."

In between races, Ryan worked Book'em Danno with a tough 5-year-old allowance horse in Counterfeitcurency Aug. 27. The 2-year-old

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more than held his own as both horses worked in :47.40. It was then that Ryan figured he could not lose the Smoke Glacken.

"He improved a lot off his first race," Ryan said. "I have an older horse who is a pretty decent work horse. After he worked with him, I said I don't care who's in that stakes. Unless they have Secretariat they aren't going to beat him."

Atlantic Six Racing LLC is made up of six friends who reside on the Jersey Shore. They are Frank Camassa, Jeff Resnikoff, Mark Rubenstein, James Rubenstein, Jim Scappi and Briscione. It was Mark Rubenstein who came up with the name Book'em Danno.

The friends had owned horses off and on for years but came back together to privately acquire Counterfeitcurency, who has earned $188,288. That gave them some money to play with and they started asking around about modest-priced prospects that might be available. Bloodstock agent Chris Graci put them in touch with breeders Greg Kilka and Christine Connelly of Bright View Farm.

They had a Bucchero yearling out of the unraced Ghostzapper mare named Adorabella that they were willing to sell. This was in August and just a few weeks earlier, Adorabella's first foal, a filly by Fast Anna named Girl Trouble, had broken her maiden at Monmouth. What no one knew at the time was that Girl Trouble would go on to win a pair of stakes races at Parx.

"At that time, Girl Trouble had broken her maiden but hadn't done much else," said Briscione. "But as Girl Trouble progressed, we got really excited."

The dam Adorabella has become a big part of this story. She was bought by Kilka for just $14,000 at the 2020 Keeneland January Sale. She has produced two stakes winners from her first two foals. The third foal is a Jersey-bred yearling by Classic Empire who sold as hip #3 for $135,000 to LC Racing LLC at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October sale.

Atlantic Six sent Book'em Danno and a New York-bred baby they also owned to Randy Rentz in South Carolina to be broken.

"Randy didn't start breezing him until April," Briscione said. "He also had our New York-bred. They breezed in company and he had a really good bottom underneath him when he got to Derek. Randy said they were nice horses, but you never know until you get into a race. But he had never done anything wrong. We actually thought he would be a little short for that first race, but he was very impressive. I never thought he would win by 9½ lengths and go in '4 and change.' "

The Book'em Danno team shipped him to Belmont Park and while he missed a start in the Oct. 1 Pilgrim Stakes, a "Win and You're In" prep for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-G1, he stepped up to take the historic Futurity a week later. Originally scheduled for the turf at 6 furlongs and a "Win and You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint, it was moved to the main track. He romped home as the 2-5 favorite in 1:09.47.

Briscione wasn't sure they should aim that high at this point in the colt's career.

"We've talked about a lot of races," he said. "I think his family is well suited to the grass. But we're trying to be realistic and look for some low-hanging fruit. We don't want to bang heads yet if we don't have to. I would think something shorter. Girl Trouble never showed that she could go two turns. This horse runs well late, so it doesn't appear that he'll have that issue. But why risk it? We would like to pick off some sprint stakes. We will let him take us where he takes us and not get crazy."

Long, short, dirt or grass, every option seems to be within reach. He's done with Jersey-breds for the year and it looks like his next race could come in a graded stakes. A start in a Breeders' Cup race is not out of the question. It's not too early to get excited.

Wanamaker's to host first New Jersey-bred sale

Lexington, Ky. – In partnership with the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey, Wanamaker's will be holding the first-ever New Jersey-Bred Sale on Thursday, Nov. 16. The auction will occur just a month after the conclusion of the 2023 Monmouth Park meet, where New Jersey-breds found immense success in both restricted and open races.

"We are excited to partner with Wanamaker's on a New Jersey-bred mixed sale," said Michael Campbell, executive director of Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. "The New Jersey-bred program is gaining attention from breeders and owners across the country. The partnership with Wanamaker's is a great benefit to New Jersey breeders who can sell their horses without the stress and financial commitment of bringing them to the sales grounds. With a dozen New Jersey-breds earning over $100,000 in purses during the 51-day Monmouth Park meet, now is a great time to be involved in the New Jersey-bred program."

Entries will be open until Monday, Nov. 6, and the catalogue will be released Nov. 8. The entry fee for those looking to sell their New Jersey-bred will be $300. The sale will be open to

horses of all ages and all entries must be registered with the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. For more information on the buying and selling processes through Wanamaker's, please visit www.wanamakers.com.

"We are delighted to announce our exciting partnership with the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey, which promises to provide New Jersey breeders and owners with an exceptional selling experience and simultaneously extend the reach of New Jersey-breds throughout the nation," said Wanamaker's CEO Liza Hendriks.

About Wanamaker's: Wanamaker's hosts monthly online Thoroughbred auctions. The streamlined platform and timing of auctions at wanamakers.com provides an opportunity for industry participants to buy and sell at the right time with less hassle. In addition to an unwavering commitment to its customers, Wanamaker's is committed to the Thoroughbred industry and the lifeblood of the industry, the horse. To show this commitment, Wanamaker's contributes .1 percent of total sales to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) and requires sellers to contribute .05 percent of their total sales to the TAA as well.

Monmouth Park shows increase in average total handle and average on-track handle for third straight year as meet ends

Monmouth Park continued its upward trend by showing an increase in average total handle and average on-track handle for the third straight year, while Paco Lopez claimed his 10th riding title and Claudio Gonzalez was the leading trainer for the second straight summer as the 51-day meet came to a close on Sunday.

The average total handle was $4,032,648 this year, an 11.4 percent increase over last year's average of $3,620,719.

The on-track handle rose 15 percent to $340,257 compared to the 2022 average of $295,896.

In addition, the average field size of 7.71 was the largest since 2015.

"We are grateful to our fans, horsemen, stakeholders and especially Governor Murphy and the entire state legislature," said Dennis Drazin, chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, operators of Monmouth Park. "To see our across-the-board numbers, year after year, continue to show large increases is a direct result of the purse supplement, the hard work of all our employees, and of course, the racing fans.

"We have witnessed a continued growth of not just the breeding program in New Jersey, but an overall attraction by nationwide horsemen to ensure Monmouth Park is on their summer calendar.

"Not only has the racing office done an amazing job working with our horsemen and ensuring the best possible product to the racing fans, but the same can be said for all our employees. From group sales to admissions, from mutuels to marketing, and of course operations and accounting. I am so appreciative to have such amazing people all working together for the betterment of Monmouth Park.

"We will take this year as a success and continue to build on this next year and for many years to come."

The Grade 1, $1-million TVG.com Haskell Stakes, Monmouth Park's showcase event, contributed to a record handle of $21,359,642 for the 14-race card. Geaux Rocket Ride outfinished Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage to give Hall of Famer Richard Mandella his second Haskell win.

Lopez easily captured the Monmouth Park riding title for the ninth time in the past 11 years with 76 winners. His 10 overall titles are second only to Joe Bravo's 13 in track history.

Gonzalez backed up his first training title at the track in 2022 with an outstanding meet as the runaway winner this year. His 46 winners were more than double the total of his nearest competitor.

Klaravich Stables finished as the leading owner with 13 wins, including victories in the Grade 3 WinStar Matchmaker Stakes, Grade 3 Molly Pitcher Stakes and Grade 3 Eatontown Stakes.

Madison Olver and Luis Rivera Jr. tied for honors as the leading apprentice at the meet with 17 wins apiece. That was good for 10th place in the jockey standings.

Jersey Girl Handicap winner Precious Avary (left) topped the New-Jersey-bred earners list at the recent Monmouth Park meet, with Charles Hesse III Handicap winner Great Navigator close behind.

Top New Jersey-breds at 2023 Monmouth Park Meet

The following is a list of the top 15 highest-earning New Jersey-breds during the 51-day Monmouth Park meet from May 13-Sept. 10.

Horse	Breeder	Earnings
Precious Avary	Smith Farm & Stables	$144,875
Great Navigator	Holly Crest Farm	144,687
Grouch	Headless Horsemen Racing LLC	131,093
Mia's Crusade	Dianne Boyken	123,750
Bel Pensiero	ARM Consulting	118,125
Book'em Danno	Gregory J. Kilka & Bright View Farm	118,125
Carats Forever	Holly Crest Farm	117,563
Irish Meadow	Raymond W. Cornish	113,700
Speaking	Holly Crest Farm	111,000
Postino's Prophecy	Law Legacy Stables	106,780
Riding Pretty	Holly Crest Farm	105,500
Bustin Loose	Joseph & Gayle Ioia	98,687
Starstruck Notion	Kenneth Garcia	96,975
Running Right by U	Joseph & Gayle Ioia	95,368
Fixed Odds	Gina Lupton, FRI Farms, Les Salzman & Alaura Allen	94,468

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

November 2023

President's message

Congratulations to Art Bauer (breeder), Gerard, George and Debra Eckhardt for back-to-back wins for North Carolina-bred Hartful Hope. This 3-year-old filly by Central Banker out of She's Stylish (by Posse), can close or stalk, run on grass or dirt, and be victorious. Art has decided to sell her dam, She's Stylish, born in 2010. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with him at unbridled1966@yahoo.com.

It's that time of year again when I plead for you to renew your memberships and encourage new members. Continuing your membership in our small but mighty organization is never too early and greatly appreciated.

She's Stylish, shown with Hartful Hope as a foal, in 2020.

Race Review

Hartful Hope, by Central Banker out of She's Stylish, by Posse, won at Belterra Park Sept. 7 for breeder Art Bauer and owners Gerard Eckhardt, George and Debra Eckhardt – Jimmer Racing. This NC-bred dark bay 3-year-old filly trailed near the back of the field to the stretch and made an outside run to gain position. She won by 1½ lengths going 5 furlongs on the turf in :56.74.

Making it two wins in a 15-day turnaround, Hartful Hope was victorious again at Belterra Park Sept. 22 for her connections. Despite an awkward break, she showed versatility by running 6 furlongs on the dirt in 1:11.63. She stalked just behind the pacesetter, took the lead on the stretch, dueled and prevailed to win by a neck.

Flat Out Flying, by Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge, ran second Sept. 9 at Delaware for breeders Beth Muirhead and Frank Coniglio. The 7-year-old chestnut gelding ran 1 mile and 70 yards on a fast dirt track.

Trigger Happy, by Gun Runner out of Stayclassysandiego, by Rockport Harbor, ran second Sept. 15 at Churchill Downs for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old gray/roan gelding covered 1 mile on a fast dirt track.

Gulfstream Way, by Gemologist out of Clever Cookie, by Smart Strike, ran second, missing by a head, in the $300,000 Louisville Thoroughbred Society Stakes Sept. 16 for breeder Denise Walsh. The 5-year-old bay gelding went 6 furlongs on a fast dirt track.

Double Tough Tiger, by Tourist out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge, ran second Sept. 16 at Camarero for breeder Beth Muirhead. The five-year-old dark bay gelding went 7 furlongs on a fast dirt track.

Bourbon Strait, by English Channel out of Bourbon Twist, by Langfuhr, ran third Aug. 25 at Colonial Downs for owners and breeders Bill and Carrington Price. The 3-year-old bay gelding went 1 1/16 miles on a firm turf track.

Jersey Perfection, by Mission Impaziible out of PJ Hooker, by Hook and Ladder, was third Aug. 27 for breeder and owner Ken Orchard – Jet M Stable. The 4-year-old dark bay gelding went 1 1/16 miles on a firm turf track.

Tough to Tame, by Speigthster out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge, finished third Sept. 2 at Charles Town for breeder Beth Muirhead. The 4-year-old chestnut gelding ran 6½ furlongs on a fast dirt track.

Cainudothetwist, by Americain out of Bourbon Twist, by Langfuhr, finished third in the Life's Illusion Stakes Sept. 8 at Colonial Downs for breeders Bill and Carrington Price. The 6-year-old bay mare went 2¼ miles over hurdles. It's noteworthy that Boss Man, owned by Bill and Carrington Price, holds the current course record set Aug. 9, 2021.

Atomic Blonde (Ger), by The Grey Gatsby out of Alwina, by Areion, finished third at Woodbine in the $200,000 Canadian Stakes Presented by the JRA for owner Carolina Cooper in partnership. The 4-year-old gray or roan filly was competing at 1⅛ miles on a good turf track and missed second by a head.

Hitting the Board

August 25 – September 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
25-Aug	Bourbon Strait	Colonial Downs	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	3rd
27-Aug	Jersey Perfection	Monmouth Park	Owned by Ken Orchard - Jet M Stable	3rd
2-Sep	Tough To Tame	Charles Town	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
7-Sep	Hartful Hope (NC)	Belterra Park	Bred by A.Bauer, owned by Gerhardt, G&D Eckhardt	WINNER!
8-Sep	Cainudothetwist	Colonial Downs Life's Illusion S	Bred by Bill & Carrington Price	3rd
9-Sep	Flat Out Flying	Delaware Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	2nd
9-Sep	Atomic Blonde	Woodbine - Canadian S	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	3rd
15-Sep	Trigger Happy	Churchill Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
16-Sep	Gulfstream Way	Churchill Downs Louisville TB S	Bred by Denise Walsh	2nd
16-Sep	Double Tough Tiger	Camarero Racetrack	Bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
22-Sep	Hartful Hope (NC)	Belterra Park	Bred by A.Bauer, owned by Gerhardt, G&D Eckhardt	WINNER!

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in Thoroughbred Industry
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PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **N.C.T.A.**
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Thank you for your support.

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

November 2023
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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Pennsylvania Derby Day a PA-Bred Showcase

By Averie Levanti

The $150,000 Prince Lucky Stakes for PA-Sired, PA-Bred 2-year-olds was taken by Notice of Action.

The first day of fall Sept. 23 brought about a dreary, rainy, windy day at Parx Racing for Pennsylvania Derby Day. Four PA-Bred stakes were featured on the card, including the second leg of the Pennsylvania Stallion Series for PA-Sired, PA-Bred 2-year-olds. In addition, a few Pennsylvania-Breds took on open company throughout the day.

Stakes action kicked off in the second race with the $150,000 Prince Lucky Stakes. Notice of Action, trained by Bobbi Anne Hawthorne, was a late nomination to the Stallion Series for PA-Sired, PA-Bred 2-year-olds off his 4-length romp in a maiden special weight on PA Day at the Races.

Following the scratch of Whistle Pig winner Gamboling Ghost, Notice of Action was left the clear even-money favorite in the field of nine juveniles. Six other runners were returning off their effort in the Whistle Pig, including second and third-place finishers Chilling Hassle and Lost and Confused.

A four-way duel commenced in the early going between Poker Partner, Standpoint, Notice of Action, and Chilling Hassle through a quarter in :22.50 over the sloppy sealed

track. With Notice of Action and Chilling Hassle continuing on through a half in :46.33, Notice of Action made his bid for the lead midway around the turn and opened up a 1½-length lead. Unraveling a lead from 13 lengths back was Lost and Confused (by Social Inclusion), who closed strongly down the middle of the track, while 43-1 longshot Addyson's Dream (Uptowncharlybrown) attempted to make a bid up the rail. Notice of Action and rider Andy Hernandez held sway over his rivals, holding off a fast-closing Lost and Confused to post a half-length victory, with Addyson's Dream another 2¼ lengths back in third.

Sired by Hoppertunity, Notice of Action is out of the Jump Start mare Be a Gem and bred by Bryan Minnich. Purchased for $15,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale, it was the first career stakes victory for enthusiastic owner A.J. Hawthorne.

The $150,000 Imply for PA-Sired, PA-Bred juvenile fillies was up next. Nine 2-year-old fillies lined up to compete, including the trifecta from the Miss Blue Tye Dye Stakes of Jody's Ruby, Sirani, and One Eyed Jackie. Heavy favoritism, however, fell to Aoife's Magic, who had broken her maiden only 12 days prior by an eye-opening 10¾ lengths.

Settling 2 lengths back as the frontrunners dueled through an opening quarter in :22.31, Aoife's Magic moved up around the turn and poked her head in front of One Eyed Jackie to post a half mile in :46.65. The chestnut filly opened up, taking a 5-length lead into the stretch as first-time starter Noisy On the Bay rallied strongly down the middle of the track from 14 lengths last. Aoife's Magic and Wilfred Vasquez held sway by 1¼ lengths over Noisy On the Bay (Boisterous), while Lucky

Aoife's Magic scores by daylight in the $150,000 Imply Stakes for PA-Bred/PA-Sired fillies.

Opportunity (Hoppertunity) nosed out Sirani for show.

Aoife's Magic, by Smarty Jones, is the second named foal, and second winner, from the winning Pennsylvania-bred Drosselmeyer mare Polarized for breeder Mohns Hill Farm LLC. She was purchased by A and J Racing Stable LLC for $16,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling Sale.

Older horses were featured later in the card, with the $100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes for fillies and mares over a mile and 70 yards going off as race 6. A field of nine featured 2023 Unique Bella winner Morning Matcha and Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial third-place finisher Gunfyre Gal.

Morning Matcha was a heavy 3-5 favorite in her return to dirt following an unsuccessful grass attempt in the Mrs. Penny Stakes on PA Day at the Races. While the odds-on favorite settled into last in the early joining, 15-1 shot One More Kelly was able to set the pace on her terms through fractions of :23.88 and :48.27. Confronted by Lindalovesgold around the far turn, One More Kelly shook off her rival and spurted clear once again to open a 1½-length lead turning for home. Morning Matcha was rolling from the back of the pack, but the long-time frontrunner found a second gear to hold off the late-charging favorite by three-quarters of a length. Warrior's Ransom finished 4¾ lengths back in third.

The Plum Pretty was the first stakes victory for One More Kelly, who was making her first start for leading trainer Jamie Ness, having improved off a fourth-place effort in the Fort Indiantown Gap Stakes at Penn National last out. One More Kelly recorded her fifth victory in 22 starts and was stakes-placed earlier in the year when third in the Princess of Sylmar at Presque Isle in July. The 4-year-old daughter of Not This Time is out of the Thunder Gulch mare Kelly Mac and is a homebred for Donny Brown's Warrior's Reward LLC.

Following two Grade 3s – the Greenwood Cup (race 7) and Turf Monster (race 8) – the $100,000 Alphabet Soup Handicap was pulled off the turf and run over 1 1/16 miles on the main track. The odds-on favorite was Buy Land and See, off his romp in the Storm Cat Stakes on PA Day at the Races; joining him were the Storm Cat third and fourth-place finishers, King Kumbalay and Market Maven.

Buy Land and See toted 130 pounds over the sloppy track, giving away seven to 11 pounds to his rivals, and sat third in the early stages behind Fore Harp and Market Maven, while King Kumbalay was another length and a half back in fourth. Fore Harp set fractions of :23.67 and :47.73 before he was confronted by the pair of Buy Land and See and King Kumbalay. Buy Land and See ultimately came up empty under his heavy impost, and King Kumbalay swept to the lead turning for home. The gelding continued to draw away as he splashed across the wire 6½ lengths in front. Fore Harp held the photo over Market Maven for third, while Buy Land and See yielded late to take fourth. It was the first stakes victory for 5-year-old King Kumbalay, who marked his third victory over an off track. He was purchased for $35,000 by owners Kingsport Farm at the 2019 Keeneland

Pennsylvania Derby Day continued

September Yearling Sale, and the victory pushed his earnings just shy of $300,000. The Alphabet Soup was the sixth victory in 20 starts for the son of Shanghai Bobby. Out of the Flower Alley mare Lovely Stay, King Kumbalay was bred by late Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard.

In addition to the four PA-bred stakes featured on the stakes-packed card, five additional PA-breds competed in open stakes.

Leading the charge was Arrowwood Farm homebred Nimitz Class. Having tallied three consecutive runner-up stakes efforts entering the $300,000 Parx Dirt Mile, Nimitz Class was the 6-1 third choice in the field of six behind heavily favored last-out Grade 1 winner Gunite and New York-bred Dr Ardito. Sitting behind the early pace of Mish and Gunite, Nimitz Class swept up to confront his Grade 1-winning rival around the turn. The two fought through the first half of the stretch before Nimitz Class pulled away late to post a 1¾-length upset.

It was the fifth victory in eight starts on the year for the 4-year-old son of Munnings, whose career tally now stands 11-for-20, with over $700,000 in earnings.

The $250,000 Turf Monster-G3 at 5 furlongs was conducted over a very soggy Parx turf course following the day's ongoing rain. The 4-year-old filly Roses for Debra, bred by Blackstone Farm LLC, was making her first start against males following her summer in Saratoga that saw her glide to two easy stakes victories, including the Grade 2 Caress. She went off the 3-5 favorite. Hard-knocking 8-year-old Smooth B, bred by St. Omer's Farm and WynOaks Farm, was dismissed at 24-1 at his home track. While nobody caught the front-running Indiana-bred Nobody Listens, Smooth B was 3 lengths back in second, with Roses for Debra another 2 lengths back in third. Smooth B posted his fourth runner-up effort in seven tries this year, with one third, and pushed his earnings to $816,267.

Entrants for the Grade 2 $400,000 Gallant Bob Stakes for 3-year-olds included the winners of last year's Prince Lucky and Whistle Pig Stakes – Gordian Knot, bred by Joe and Orla Imbesi, and Ninetyprcentmaddie, bred by LC Racing LLC. They went off at 5-1 and 10-1, respectively, in the field of nine going 6 furlongs. While favored Damon's Mound won, Gordian Knot checked in third with Ninetyprcentmaddie another length back in fourth. Gordian Knot has yet to finish off the board in eight career starts on dirt and increased his earnings to $423,960.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Pennsylvania Derby Day at PARX was going to be held under water if Tropical Storm Ophelia had anything to do with it. With a little help from mother nature and a lot of prayers, we dodged most of the rain and some of the wind.

Since most of the tracks in the Mid-Atlantic region were closed, we were the 'Big Dog' for the day, and that we were, as the handle broke $17 million. Wow! The day included four PA-Bred Stakes, two with purses of $150,000 each which made up the second-leg of the 2yo PA-Sired PA-Bred Series. Congratulations to the Bryan Minnich-bred Notice of Action, who came from well off the pace to win the Prince Lucky Stakes, and the Mohns Hill Farm-bred Aoife's Magic, an easy winner of the Imply Stakes. We're going to hear from those two horses again. Let's not forget Arrowwood Farm-bred Nimitz Class, who won the $300,000 PARX Dirt Mile by beating the multiple Grade 1-winning Steve Asmussen-trained Gunite. Way to go Tom Coulter!

The last leg of the 2yo PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series will be run at PARX on December 27 at 1 mile and 70 yards with purses of $200,000. Nominations for the December races for 2yos, if not already nominated, are $5,000 through the PHBA office. You can go to pabred.com under 'Horses Nominated' to see if your horse is on the list. If not, go to 'Forms' and print the nomination form. Don't miss out on the fun. Please remember that if your horse is already nominated, you still MUST CALL the PARX racing office to enter your nomination.

Fantastic news for 2024! The PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series is being expanded to include 3yos. You should have received a letter in the mail. If you were nominated for the 2023 2yo series, you're automatically eligible as a 3yo. If you did not nominate as a 2yo, the fee will be $100 if paid before April 30, 2024. For foals of 2022, the fee will include races for 2 and 3yos. Please refer to your letter as the earlier you nominate, the cheaper the fee.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. We will be transitioning to that in 2024. If you are still using a paper registration, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form.

Broodmare domicile forms are online for the 2024 foaling season. These domicile reports are MANDATORY and if not completed, your foal could be denied PA-Bred registration. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Have a great finish to 2024! Go PA!!

2024 BROODMARE DOMICILE REPORTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY
DECEMBER 1, 2023
Online form can be found under “forms” tab or featured section on pabred.com
Broodmare domicile reports are required to register the resulting foal with PHBA.
If the form is not completed, your foal may be denied registration.
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South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

Racing Across the Nation

Stakes race action picked up during the summer months and South Carolina training center graduates benefited finding the winner's circle 11 times between Aug. 21 and Sept. 18.

On Aug. 21, Talented Man earned a hard fought victory in the Marshall Jenny Handicap at Parx Racing. He fought head-and-head with one into the stretch, put that horse away and then fought head-and-head with another and would not be denied, winning by a head. Talented Man went through the breaking process at the Travis Durr Training Center.

Another Durr graduate, Secret Money, ran mid-pack for the first half mile of the Music City Stakes-G3 at Kentucky Downs Sept. 2. In midstretch, she split rivals and drove to the wire crossing the finish line a length in front. This was Secret Money's third win in six career starts.

Great Navigator proved much the best in the Charles Hesse III Handicap at Monmouth Park Sept. 4. He stalked the leaders early on before splitting rivals at the quarter-pole and quickly drawing away. He won by 10 lengths. Great Navigator has not finished worse than third in eight career starts. He learned his early lessons in the care of Travis Durr.

Get Smokin broke fast and finished fast in the Kentucky Turf Cup Stakes-G2 Sept. 12. Going off at 19-1, Get Smokin quickly opened up by 3 lengths and the field chased him around the Kentucky Downs track. Get Smokin won by 1¾ lengths. He was developed by Donna Freyer at her Custom Care Equine program in Camden

The 2-year-old colt Tok Tok won for the second time in two starts when capturing the Kitten's Joy Stakes at Colonial Downs Sept. 9. Tok Tok raced on the inside early before moving out a few paths approaching the stretch. He took command at the eighth-pole and was drawing away at the wire, proving 1¼ lengths the best. Tok Tok learned his early lessons under the watchful eye of Travis Durr.

Book'em Danno, a 2-year-old gelding, made it 2-for-2 in the Smoke Glacken Stakes at Monmouth Park Sept. 9. He stalked the leaders up to the top of the stretch before surging to the lead and drawing clear to win by 2 lengths. He went through the breaking process at Randy and Kala Rentz' Rentz Farm Training Center.

Private Creed captured his third stakes win finishing first in the Franklin-Simpson Stakes-G2 at Kentucky Downs Sept. 9. Private Creed rated comfortably along the rail early, continued on an inside trip and drew off to a 2¼-length win. Private Creed was purchased by Marcus and Crystal Ryan as a yearling and pinhooked at the Fasig-Tipton May Midlantic Two-Year-Old in Training Sale in 2022.

Serifos, another graduate of the Travis Durr Training Center, was a winner of his first stakes in his 14th career appearance, proving best in the Presious Passion Stakes at Monmouth Park Sept. 10. Fourth after a mile, Serifos moved four-wide on the turn, caught and dueled the leader in the stretch, then proved much the best late crossing the finish line 3¼ lengths in front.

Graded winner Double Crown (Kelso Handicap-G2 in 2022) recorded his fourth career stakes win in the Polynesian at Pimlico Sept. 10. This was his 39th career start. In the Polynesian, Double Crown was fourth, just behind the leaders for the first three-quarters of a mile. He then found a path along the rail, quickly moved up to take the lead, and left the field 4½ lengths behind at the finish line. Double Crown learned his early lessons under the watchful eye of Cary Frommer in Aiken.

On the steeplechase front, Merry Maker (Ire) pulled off a tremendous feat when coming from last to capture the Lonesome Glory-G1 as the second-to-longest shot on the board at the Belmont at the Big A meet Sept. 14. Merry Maker was saddled by Arch

continued on next page

Arch Kingsley saddles 1-2-3 finishers in Lonesome Glory

The 2023 running of the Lonesome Glory Handicap-G1 is a steeplechase stakes that will be forever etched in the memory of SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley. He saddled the top-three finishers in this race run at the Belmont at Big A meet in New York Sept. 14.

Kingsley put the tack on the winner Merry Maker (Ire) for SCTOBA member Pierre Manigault, the owner of Hurricana Farm near Charleston. The 5-year-old gelding trailed the field over all 10 fences covering 2½ miles. He came seven-wide into the stretch full of energy, collared his stablemate L'Imperator (Fr) in deep stretch and proved best by a half length. The Kingsley-saddled Barbados (Ire) finished six lengths behind the winner. After the race, Kingsley said, "It doesn't get any better than this!"

TOBA honors Franklin "Goree" Smith

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' National Awards Dinner was held in Lexington, Ky., Sept. 9.

For the 11th time in the past 13 years, Franklin "Goree" Smith earned the title of South Carolina's leading breeder. At his Elloree Training Center, Goree prepares both horses and future jockeys. In 2022, Smith's South Carolina-breds earned $532,668. In February of this year, the Smith-bred Swayin to and Fro captured the Barbare Fritchie Stakes-G3 at Laurel Park. She is the first South Carolina-bred to win a graded stakes.

We are also very happy to announce that after taking a sabbatical this year, the Elloree Trials will be held in March 2024.

Racing Across the Nation

continued

Kingsley. After coming seven wide into the stretch, Merry Maker got up in the shadow of the wire to win by a half length.

Another former student of Cary Frommer's breaking program, Sacred Wish, notched her first stakes victory when winning the Winter Memories at Belmont at the Big A Sept. 15. She stalked the leaders while racing along the inside before coming four wide into the stretch. She dueled with another before putting that one away at the sixteenth-pole and finishing 1¼ lengths in front.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
TALENTED MAN	Travis Durr Training Center	08/21/23	Parx Racing	Marshall Jenny H
Uncle Dar	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/22/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Riden With Biden	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/22/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Malibu Cowboy	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/23/23	Mountaineer Park	Maiden Special Weight
Fortes	Elloree Training Center	08/24/23	Charles Town	Allowance
Point Pelle	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/25/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Master McGrath	Elloree Training Center	08/25/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Dante's Fire	Aiken - Neil Morris	08/25/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Hurdle
Eisenstaedt	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/26/23	Canterbury Park	Allowance
Sticky Notes	McCutchen Training Center	08/26/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Maiden Special Weight
Two Ghosts	Travis Durr Training Center	08/27/23	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Jesters Honor	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/27/23	Monmouth Park	Starter Allowance
Lucky Junior	Elloree Training Center	08/27/23	Mountaineer Park	Starter Allowance
Balladry	Travis Durr Training Center	08/29/23	Horsehoe Indianapolis	Maiden Special Weight
Golden Rapper	Travis Durr Training Center	08/30/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Maiden Special Weight
Linda Loves Gold	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/30/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Calvery Kid	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/30/23	Presque Isles	Allowance
Unicorn Cake	Travis Dutt Training Center	09/01/23	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
Lilly Lightening	Aiken - Cary Frommer	09/01/23	Timonium	Maiden Sple
SECRET MONEY	Travis Durr Training Center	09/02/23	Kentucky Downs	Music City S-G3
Riding Pretty	Travis Durr Training Center	09/02/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Adiamo A Firenze	Travis Durr Training Center	09/02/23	Delaware Park	Allowance
Missing Fortune	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/02/23	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
Red Knobs	Elloree Training Center	09/02/23	Remington Park	Starter Allowance
Pharoah's Wine	Elloree Training Center	09/02/23	Kentucky Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Clubman	Aiken - Cary Frommer	09/02/23	Timonium	Allowance
Cowes	Travis Durr Training Center	09/03/23	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
GREAT NAVIGATOR	Travis Durr Training Center	09/04/23	Monmouth Park	Charles Hesse III H
Gold in Them Hills	Travis Durr Training Center	09/04/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Ranger Blue	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/04/23	Presque Isles	Maiden Special Weight
Organized Chaos	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/04/23	Timonium	Allowance
Javistha	Aiken - Cary Frommer	09/04/23	Prairie Meadows	Allowance
Kiss Me Hardy	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/06/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Nature Trail	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/06/23	Presque Isles	Maiden Special Weight
Warriors Cause	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/06/23	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Warriors Payoff	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/06/23	Presque Isles	Allowance
Mollie Tapper	Elloree Training Center	09/08/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Fortes	Elloree Training Center	09/08/23	Charles Town	Starter Allowance
Abaan	Kate Dalton	09/08/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Hurdle
Riptide Rock	Aiken-Neil Morris	09/08/23	Colonial Downs	Allowance Hurdle
GET SMOKIN	Custom Care-D. Freyer	09/09/23	Kentucky Down	Kentucky Turf Cup S-G2
TOK TOK	Travis Durr Training Center	09/09/23	Colonial Downs	Kitten's Joy S
Carats Forever	Travis Durr Training Center	09/09/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance
BOOK'EM DANNO	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/09/23	Monmouth Park	Smoke Glacken S
PRIVATE CREED	Aiken - Mason Springs	09/09/23	Kentucky Downs	Franklin-Simpson S-G2
SERIFOS	Travis Durr Training Center	09/10/23	Monmouth Park	Presious Passion S
DOUBLE CROWN	Aiken - Cary Frommer	09/10/23	Pimlico	Polynesian S
Lika Rolling Stone	Travis Durr Training Center	09/11/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Miss Stones	Travis Durr Training Center	09/12/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Paynted Warrior	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/12/23	Presque Isles	Allowance
Dawgmentality	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/13/23	Presque Isles	Allowance
Sweetie	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/13/23	Presque Isles	Allowance
Supers Lucky Lady	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/14/23	Belmont at Big A	Allowance
MERRY MAKER (IRE)	Arch Kingsley	09/14/23	Belmont at Big A	Lonesome Glory H-G1
SACRED WISH	Aiken - Cary Frommer	09/15/23	Belmont at Big A	Winter Memories Stakes
Shine On Moon	Travis Durr Training Center	09/16/23	Pimlico	Maiden Special Weight
Condensation	McCutchen Training Center	09/17/23	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Fast Fran	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/18/23	Finger Lakes	Starter Allowance
Nomo's Fortune	Rentz Farm Training Center	09/18/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Amazing Gal	Elloree Training Center	09/18/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Allowance
Chica Chula	Aiken - Mason Springs	09/18/23	Mountaineer Park	Allowance
Beverly Park	McCutchen Training Center	09/18/23	Thistledown	Allowance

VIRGINIA

A PAIR OF TIMBERCREEK FARM VIRGINIA-CERTIFIED FILLIES EARN GRAND CHAMPION & RESERVE CHAMPION HONORS AT THE 2023 VIRGINIA BREEDERS FUND YEARLING FUTURITY

The 22nd annual Virginia Breeders Fund Yearling Futurity was held September 5 at the Warrenton Horse Show Grounds which again saw solid participation from over twenty different breeders who were competing for $40,000 in awards.

The prize money was distributed that day in each of four classes — VA-Bred/Sired yearling colts/geldings, VA-Bred/Sired yearling fillies, VA-Certified colts/geldings, and VA-Certified fillies. Grooms were recognized as well with awards in each division and in the championship class.

The event was judged by renowned Maryland trainer Brittany Russell, who compared each entrant's confirmation, quality, substance, and suitability to become racehorses. The top two finishers in each of the four classes returned to compete for Futurity Grand Champion and Champion Reserve honors.

The Grand Champion, winner of the Virginia Certified Fillies class, was a 2022 Un-named bay by Vino Rosso out of Astral Favor by Astrology. She is owned by Timbercreek Farm's Sara Miller. Reserve Champion honors went to the second-place finisher in the same category — an Un-named bay by Practical Joke out of Empire Lady by Empire Maker — also owned by Sara Miller and Timbercreek Farm, and bred by Magic Cap Stables LLC.

Finishing third in the Certified Fillies category was Philanthropic 22 by This Time Out (Ann Backer/ Smitten Farm) followed by a 2022 Un-named bay by Holy Boss Out (Charles Clement). Rounding out the class was Un-named bay by Great Notion (Brandon Mackey/ Dark Hollow Farm & John Foster), an Un-named bay by Mo Town (Alfred Smithwick/Anzac LLC/ Respite Farm & Terlep), Street Expectation by Street Magician (Diana McClure/DMC Racing Stables), an Un-named bay by Always Dreaming (Alfred Smithwick/Chc Inc), a 2022 Un-named bay by Speightster (Tommy Fahrney/ Amy H. Daney Bloodstock), Nancy's Notion by Great Notion (Nancy B. Heil), an Un-named bay by Jimmy Creed (Joan Fontana/Country Life Farm & Sagamoon LLC), and an Un-named bay by Always Dreaming (Joan Fontana/Don Alberto Corp).

Leslie Young's Arrowheart broke his maiden at Montpelier in November, 2022 before winning at Foxfield October 1 (Douglas Lees).

The Virginia-Bred/Sired Colts & Gelding class winner was Nancie's Boy by Unified out of Jumpin' Nancy by Jump Start, owned and Bred by Quest Realty and Daniel Wukich. Second place finisher was Se Thar Barr by The Factor out of Embarr by Royal Academy, owned and bred by Susan Cooney. Third was a 2022 Un-named dark bay by Maclean's Music (R. Larry Johnson). Finishing out the class was Go to Bingo by Holy Boss (Helen H. Masek), Buthespretty by Paynter (Virginia Equine PLLC/Douglas K. Daniels DVM), Blackthorne Brusca by Summer Front (Quest Realty/Daniel Wukich), a 2022 Un-named dark bay by Kobe's Back (Becky Lavin), Darbyfullofblarney by Mr. Prankster (Diana McClure/DMC Racing Stables LLC), and Into Reality by Tom's d'Etat (Machmer Hall/Picturesque Farm).

The Virginia-Bred/Sired Fillies class was won by a 2022 Un-named bay by McKinzie out of Sky Cooper by Petionville, owned and bred by R. Larry Johnson. The runner-up was a 2022 Un-named Gray or Roan by Cupid, out of Hen House. The filly is owned and bred by Elise W. Kendall. Friendly Chase by Friend or Foe was third (Phyliss C Jones). The rest of the class included an Un-named bay by War of Will (Morgan's Ford Farm), Dame's Rocket by Karakonite (Althea Richards), a 2022 Un-named Gray or Roan by Frosted (Morgan's Ford Farm), Sunflower State by Divining Rod (Virginia Equine PLLC/Douglas K. Daniels, DVM), We're Just Friends (Diana McClure/DMC

Racing Stables), and Louvar by Golden Years (Bruce B Collette).

In the Virginia-Certified Colt/Gelding class, a 2022 Un-named chestnut by Gormley prevailed over seven others. Owned by Joni Fontana/Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette and bred by Gmbracstables LLC, the ribbon earner is out of Tell a Secret by British Blue. Runner-up was an Un-named chestnut by Tapiture owned by Sara Miller/Timbercreek Farm and bred by Haymarket Farm LLC. Blessings Bestowed was third (C. Allen Johnson) followed by an Un-named bay by Rowayton (Joni Fontana/Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette). Finishing out the class was an Un-named Chestnut by Gormley (Alfred Smithwick), Wild as Fridaynite by First Mondays (Diana McClure/DMC Racing Stables LLC), a 2022 Un-named dark bay by Street Boss (Sara Miller/Timbercreek Farm/Theta Holding I, Inc), and an Un-named bay by Peace and Justice (Joan Fontana/Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette).

VIRGINIA'S FALL STEEPLECHASE SEASON IS IN FULL SWING

Virginia's fall steeplechase season is in full swing now as two of the four meets sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association have been conducted. The Foxfield Fall Races kicked jump season off October 1 and were followed by the Fall Races at Glenwood Park in Middleburg October 14. Next up is the International Gold Cup card at Great Meadow October 28 in The Plains and the Montpelier Hunt Races November 4 at James Madison's homestead in Montpelier Station.

Trainer Leslie Young scored a hat trick during the 6-race Foxfield card with Michael Smith's The Hero Next Door, Leipers Fork Steeplechasers' Garrison Forest and with Charles Fenwick Jr.'s Arrowheart.

Starting slowly and waiting patiently to strike in the $25,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle, Arrowheart — Young's third winner — took charge after the first mile and didn't look back, drawing off by nearly 10 lengths in the race for horses rated at 110 or less at 2 ¼ miles. The five-year-old New York-bred Hard Spun Gelding, a veteran of a dozen starts on the NYRA circuit, entered the race off of a layoff of nearly 11 months. In his previous start, he captured a maiden claiming hurdle at the Montpelier Hunt Races.

The $50,000 National Sporting Library and Museum Cup Timber Stakes — featured race at Middleburg — was won by 13-year-old Tiznow gelding Schoodic, who pushed his career bankroll over the $500,000 mark with the victory. Taking charge on the last loop and leading over the last fence, the Jack Fisher trainee held off a gallant Cracker Factory to take the timber stakes by 1 3/4 lengths. Rider Graham Watters led the effort for Mrs. John R.S. Fisher whose horse continues a remarkable 51-race career that began in 2012.

Up until recently, Schoodic had been on the sidelines for 17 months but returned to the races two weeks prior at Shawan Downs to run a hard-charging second in a timber allowance. The gelding has been a model of consistency, not only winning multiple stakes over hurdles and timber, but finishing

13-year-old Schoodic soars over a hurdle at Glenwood Park October 14 en route to victory (Tod Marx photo)

in the top three 31 times, including in Grade 1 competition. Schoodic had his picture taken in the 2021 Virginia Gold, 2019 International Gold Cup and 2017 David Semmes (Gr. 2) Stakes — all at Great Meadow — and even captured an allowance at Colonial Downs in the 2014 Dogwood Classic.

Another highlight from the Middleburg card was a landmark win for trainer Larry Smith, who earned his 300th career victory when Hickory Made Stables and Celtic Venture Stable's Eye of Gunfighter captured the $30,000 Magalen O. Bryant Ratings Handicap. With Gerard Galligan aboard, the six-year-old Pennsylvania-bred tracked leader Vincent Van Gogo in second the first time around the course, took charge on the final loop, and held off Bruton Street-US' South Mountain (Jamie Bargary) by 1 3/4 lengths.

The 2023 Virginia Breeders Yearling Futurity Grand Champion was an un-named bay by Vino Rossi (VEA photo)

Reserve champion of the 2023 Futurity was un-named bay by Practical Joke (VEA photo).

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter November 2023

McKee honors husband John, "By Carrying Your Love with Me"

By Jeff Gilleas

In 2022, Muad'dib repeated as West Virginia's Horse of the Year, finishing second in the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic and counting victories in the Sam Huff West Virginia Breeders Classic and Randy Funkhouser Memorial Stakes.

Bred in West Virginia by John and Cynthia McKee, Muad'dib also took home the award as Champion Older Male for a second straight year.

His sire Fiber Sonde was named Stallion of the Year and dam Holy Pow Wow, Broodmare of the Year.

It feels sacrilegious to chronicle the exploits of Beau Ridge Farm without John present, but Cyndy has exceeded all expectations since his passing, with the help of employees Mike Shrader, Chris Croson and Robert Hamilton (Crusader), by changing the narrative from victim to resilient survivor.

When you've spent 45 years together with scarcely a matter of feet separating you, the transition to being alone could be devastating for some. However Cyndy is not your average woman, she is a horsewoman.

Possessing an intimate knowledge of triumph and tragedy, she has followed John's template of success at Beau Ridge Farm, while adding a few touches of her own.

Cyndy McKee flanked by members of her team Mike Shrader and Chris Croson.

On the Charles Town Classic program Aug. 25, she watched the 13th and final race (the Frank Gall Memorial Stakes) in solitude on the track apron.

In her words: "When the announcer's voice exclaimed No Change has found racing room at the top of the stretch, I knew we were going to win."

It was an emotional gathering in the winner's circle, as the 5-year-old son of Fiber Sonde out of Looks Like Trouble (by Indian Charlie) recorded his 13th lifetime win and pushed his career earnings past $400,000.

No Change is reminiscent of many runners bred at the farm that have Indian Charlie blood coursing through their veins.

Hidden Canyon, from the second crop of Fiber Sonde out of Indian Charlie's daughter Ghost Canyon, was sold privately to trainer Javier Contreras and made his debut at 2 in July 2012.

The backstretch buzz and workout devotees predetermined his quality making him the even money tote board favorite.

Effortlessly drawing away to a 9½-length score, the McKee bred

Redirect's first stakes winner, juvenile filly Direct the Cat, takes the Rachel's Turn.

gelding stopped the teletimer in a remarkable 50.89 seconds.

Hidden Canyon would go on to win the Robert Leavitt Memorial and West Virginia Lottery Breeders Classics, with placings in the Henry Mercer Memorial, Frank Gall Memorial, Wild and Wonderful Stakes and West Virginia Breeders Classic.

Bullets Fever, a full-brother to Hidden Canyon, won the Vincent Moscarelli Memorial, Tri-State Futurity, Coin Collector, Robert Leavitt Memorial Stakes and West Virginia Lottery Breeders Classic for owner David Rain and trainer Jeff Runco. Retiring undefeated, the massive son of Fiber Sonde left many wondering what could have been.

Late Night Pow Wow, a well-molded daughter of Fiber Sonde and Holy Pow Wow (by Indian Charlie), was bred at Beau Ridge, purchased as a yearling by Javier Contreras, and later sold to Breeze Easy LLC.

A winner of 12 of 15 starts, the dark bay filly amassed $700,400 in earnings, with her most notable scores coming in the Charles Town Oaks-G3 and Barbara Fritchie Stakes-G3. Cyndy was ecstatic to relay the results of the recent Keeneland September sale where Late Night Pow Wow's second foal, a yearling colt by Into Mischief bred by Breeze Easy and consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, sold for $900,000.

"John and I have always sold a select few youngsters to help curb the growing expenses of maintaining a large racing and breeding operation," said Cyndy. "Recently, I had an internet reduction sale with an assortment of Beau Ridge Thoroughbreds. My goal is to cut back to around 20 horses at the track and a similar number of mares at the farm. Too many people depend on me for me to retire. I just want my work load to be manageable."

The story of the "Miracle at Beau Ridge' continues to live through Fiber Sonde. Eighteen now and limited to the number of mares he can cover, the time will come where he'll eventually pass the torch, possibly to Redirect, a son of Speightstown.

"I think an angel was sitting next to John when he purchased Fiber Sonde," said Cyndy. "He truly has been a miracle, and one we are forever grateful for. Beau Ridge Farm has always been here, but the latest edition is the one Fiber Sonde built."

It appears that Fiber Sonde's substantial tradition of excellence may be passed on through his daughters that currently have weanlings on the farm.

One of his most gutsy performers, Bridging the Gap (out of Seetsang, by Fusaichi Pegasus), won the coveted WV Cavada Breeders Classic Stakes in 2020 and was formidable at any distance.

She combined for nine firsts, five seconds and three thirds in 20 career outings. She has weanling filly by Take Charge Indy, a son of A.P. Indy.

Aye a Song, out of Aye Robbin, is a full sister to the ageless wonder Penguin Power. She recorded wins in the Rachel's Turn, West Virginia Triple Crown Nutrition Breeders Classic, West Virginia Futurity and Eleanor Casey Memorial.

Her weanling colt is by Vekoma, a son of Candy Ride who bears the distinction of being a Grade 1 winner by a Grade 1 winner out of a Grade 1 winner.

Like an exclusive Beau Ridge Social club, the following ladies stayed in-house and renewed their love affair with Fiber Sonde, stakes producers Ghost Canyon and Safe At First.

On Friday night, Sept. 22, a talented group of West Virginia-bred 2-year-old fillies met in the $75,000 Rachel's Turn Stakes. The race is named for a multiple Breeders Classics-winning filly that John McKee bred, owned and trained.

When the latch sprung open, it was Direct the Cat and jockey Reshawn Latchman who immediately assumed control.

A daughter from the first crop of Redirect out of Fiber Sonde's WV Division of Tourism Breeders Classic winner Cat Thats Grey literally ran the opposition off their feet, leaving no degree of anxiety for owner-trainer Cynthia McKee.

"Clovis Crane broke this filly for us and I remember him referring to her as a 'fancy filly'," said Cyndy. "Unlike most Fiber Sonde offspring, whose temperaments are laid back, until you crank them up, Redirect's are racy from the get-go. In matters of pedigree, John generally deferred to my opinion. However, in the analysis and selection process for Redirect, he was adamant in pursuing this unraced son of Speightstown. This win is a special tribute to John because it makes Direct the Cat McKee-bred from top to bottom."

The regularity of wins lately suggests there is still magic in the air at Beau Ridge Farm!

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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— Looking Back —

10 years ago

■ Trainer D. Wayne Lukas made his first trip to Parx Racing, sending Glenda and Willis Horton's Will Take Charge for the $1-million Pennsylvania Derby-G2, his first start since winning the Travers Stakes-G1. The nearly-17-hand chestnut jumped into the 3-year-old championship picture with a powerful score.

Sharing top billing was the Grade 1 Cotillion for 3-year-old fillies, and Close Hatches tossed her name into the hat for Eclipse Award consideration when she dominated previously undefeated Sweet Lulu. Division leader, Pennsylvania-bred Princess of Sylmar, stayed in New York for the Grade 1 Beldame Invitational.

With a second in the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 and a win in the Grade 1 Clark to conclude his season, Will Take Charge was named champion 3-year-old. Close Hatches would have to wait a year before being named champion older mare, as the 3-year-old filly title went to Beholder after she won the Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1, with Close Hatches well back in second.

■ Princess of Sylmar recorded her sixth stakes win of the year, and fourth Grade 1 in a row, at the expense of two-time Eclipse Award winner Royal Delta in the Beldame Invitational, her first start against older runners. Her other Grade 1 scores came in the Alabama, Coaching Club American Oaks and Kentucky Oaks.

■ Defending her title in the Grade 2 Presque Isle Downs Masters, Groupie Doll appeared to be settling for second before she blasted past Maryland-bred Purely Hot to win in a track record 1:14.88. It was her first victory since the previous year's Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint-G1, which clinched the Eclipse Award for champion female sprinter.

■ Seven of the 11 six-figure sales yearlings at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale were Mid-Atlantic-breds. Leading the way was Dark Hollow Farm's Maryland-bred Tiz Wonderful colt out of Memories of Mystic, the second-highest price of the sale at $175,000.

The Dark Hollow colt was future stakes winner Bridget's Big Luvy. Tied for fourth most expensive colt, a $120,000 Not For Love West Virginia-bred, was stakes winner Golden Years.

■ Laurel Park's Fall Festival of Racing featured the $350,000 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash, and veteran Immortal Eyes joined the millionaires club with his 17th victory. Trained by Laurel-based Damon Dilodovico for Robert Abbo Racing Stable, the 8-year-old gelding was ridden by Travis Dunkelberger.

"It was a thrill, we won the Maryland Million Classic a few years ago but this was our biggest race, to be here, we grew up here, gambling," Dilodovico said."We were here when Mr. De Francis put his touch on the whole game, with the Sports Palace, to win his race, with his son and daughter here, it was pretty cool."

■ Richard's Kid was retired after 47 starts due to a slight tendon injury. The son of Lemon Drop Kid raced in Maryland for his breeder Robert Meyerhoff and trainer Dickie Small before being sold and sent to Bob Baffert, and later Doug O'Neill, in California. The two-time Maryland-bred Horse of the Year won three Grade 1 races, including the Pacific Classic in 2009 and 2010, and retired as the fifth-leading Maryland-bred earner in history with $2,482,259.

BENOIT PHOTO

75 years ago

■ "Henry L. Straus, president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, president of Tropical Park, vice president and general manager of the American Totalisator Company and a breeder of importance in the state's scheme of things, was one of the more regular visitors to the winner's circle at Laurel on stakes days," reported Don Reed. Not only did Straus' homebred filly Nokomis capture the Maryland Futurity, but his distance-loving 4-year-old Pilaster captured two stakes, the Sagamore and Grayson. Their trainer, Frank A. Bonsal Jr., was the Laurel meet's leading trainer, by a wide margin.

Nokomis, a daughter of Swing and Sway, was foaled at Straus' Cherry Hill Farm in Reisterstown and a half-sister to 1943 Maryland Futurity winner Quarter Moon, who stood at stud not far from his birthplace, at Worthington Farms in Glyndon.

■ No opposition could be mustered against Citation in the 12th Pimlico Special, which resulted in the race's second walkover. Had any opponents faced Citation, the 3-year-old son of Bull Lea could have won $25,000 by defeating them – his gallop around Pimlico netted $10,000.

Citation became the fifth Calumet horse to score in the Special and the second by a walkover, following Whirlaway in 1942. Others to carry the famed devil's red and blue to victory were Twilight Tear, Armed and Fervent.

25 years ago

■ For the eighth time that year, Charles Town Races raised its purses, bringing them to an average of $52,500 a day – "That's the sort of money that many of our horsemen could never before have imagined," said Dick Watson, president of the Charles Town chapter of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association – while the purse underpayment for the year increased to nearly $1.5 million. Revenues from video lottery terminals (VLTs) were providing the foundation for all of it.

Purse increases were expected for each month through the end of the year, and races were regularly drawing full fields with half a dozen also-eligibles. The changes lured horsemen back to the Charles Town, W.Va., oval who had left in previous seasons, including Jeff Runco, Charles Town's leading trainer for four consecutive seasons in the early 1990s.

■ Trainer Paddy Neilson announced his retirement from a long career as an amateur jockey after a fall at Oxmoor that September in Kentucky. The Pennsylvania resident rode in a then-record 21 Maryland Hunt Cups, winning three (Haffaday in 1968, Burnmac in 1974, and Uncle Merlin in 1989) and hung up his tack at age 56 with 95 National Steeplechase Association wins.

■ Turf writer Raleigh Burroughs died Sept. 25, three weeks shy of his 97th birthday.

Raised near Pimlico, he soared to the top of his profession as a writer and editor, even though his parents' financial plight forced him to quit high school (Baltimore's Polytechnic Institute) before graduation. During the height of his popularity in the 1960s, he became a national celebrity in the racing world with weekly columns in the *Middleburg Chronicle* (now *The Chronicle of the Horse*), and was editor of the *Maryland Horse* for eight years and *Turf and Sport Digest* for 19. Later, he wrote an autobiography titled *Horses, Burroughs and Other Animals*, as well as a biography of Fasig-Tipton's CEO Humphrey S. Finney, *Fair Exchange*.

Burroughs was selected for the National Museum of Racing's Joe Hirsch Media Roll of Honor in 2015.

■ Smarten, who joined Windfields Farm's stallion roster in 1980 and stood his entire career at the Chesapeake City farm (later Northview Stallion Station), was retired at 22 due to decreased fertility. A Maryland-bred champion at 3 in 1979, the year he won four derbies (Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio and American) in succession, he was described by trainer Woody Stephens as "a tough sucker. . . He could get off the plane and just run anywhere they put up the money."

The son of Cyane was a hit as a sire from the start (he was Maryland's leading freshman sire and fourth nationally), and he sired the likes of Canadian champion 3-year-old filly and Broodmare of the Year Classy 'n Smart (dam of champion Dance Smartly and Grade 1 winner Smart Strike).

■ North Carolina-bred G H's Pleasure set a 6-furlong course record of 1:09⅘ in winning the $100,000 Kentucky Cup Turf Dash at Kentucky Downs. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. John Montgomery Bauer, the son of Foolish Pleasure had been through many hands in his six years, selling for $18,000 at the Keeneland September yearling sale, twice through 2-year-old auctions, and then when dropped into the claiming ranks. His owners – father/ son Tony Canonie Sr. and Jr., and partners Kenneth Hoffman and E. Roy – claimed him for $14,000 in May 1996 at Arlington Park.

G H's Pleasure earned the majority of his $356,293 for the partners, who never risked him for a tag after 1996 and ran him in 28 stakes. His final win came in the Hialeah Sprint Championship Handicap in April 1999.

50 years ago

■ Ronnie and Betsy Houghton's Sylmar Farm, on the outskirts of Rising Sun in Maryland, was humming along, reported Snowden Carter.

Having made the move from Camden, S.C., to the 60-acre property four years earlier, 35-year-old Ronnie – a trainer of flat horses and jumpers, believed he and his wife found the perfect spot for the 46 horses in their care.

"We can do everything here that we could at a racetrack—and a lot more, too," said the older brother of Buckingham Farm owner Eddie Houghton. "We've put in our own 5-furlong track, schooling fences for the jumpers, two sand paddocks, four grass paddocks and two large turnout paddocks.

"But the main thing about this place is its location. It's so convenient to the tracks in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and even New York. This is really one darn good area."

The Houghtons later moved to Lancaster County, Pa., where Sylmar still operates (Ronnie died at age 79 in 2018).

Betsy and Ronnie Houghton

SKIP BALL

■ Syndicate-owned Wise Exchange was represented by his first stakes-winner when Divine Grace, a 2-year-old filly from his first crop, captured the Oak Leaf Stakes-G2 at Santa Anita. An 8-year-old son of Promised Land and stakes winner of over $173,000, Wise Exchange stood at the Stymie Manor Farm in Monkton, Md., for a live foal fee of $1,000.

Iron Horse

Five-time Horse of the Year Kelso ran in the Washington, D.C., International for four consecutive years, finishing second in every running save the last, in 1964, when he won the 1½-mile turf race by 4½ lengths. Although foaled in Kentucky, he was a Marylander through and through, bred by Chesapeake City's Allaire duPont and owned by her Bohemia Stable. The Maryland Horse Library held a Fourth Monday Talk in October on the D.C. International given by Joe Davies, stepson of the race's creator John D. Schapiro.

Peter Winants was on staff at *The Maryland Horse* during the 1960s, writing and taking photographs for the magazine before heading to Virginia where he headed up *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine and later the National Sporting Library. Before his death in 2009, he gifted his prints on file at the MHBA, which have become part of the Maryland Horse Library as The Winants Collection.

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